

Romana Fekonja



After finishing the double-subject study of library sciences and Slovene language at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana, Romana Fekonja first worked as a librarian in the field of language studies and literature and was the head of the Austrian Reading Room and the information centre British Council at the University Library Maribor. After that she expanded on her experience as the head of the school library at the II. gimnazija Maribor high school. Currently, she does counselling work in the field of library studies at the National Education Institute. She is the author of various professional articles in the field of school libraries, and she is also well-known to the professional public as the lecturer at expert workshops and consultations.

School Libraries Situation Report

Working in a modern-day school library constantly presents the employees with a myriad of new challenges and requirements. The foundation and the starting point for performing the tasks of a school librarian are the conditions stated in the employment regulations, however, this is only the beginning. In practice and in every-day operations of a school library we could say that the work sometimes requires impossible efforts and a great measure of patience as well as skills in organization and managing all of the tasks, jobs and work. The job of each school library as well as the school librarian is the support of the educational process at the school, so the school librarian must constantly monitor every aspect of the process (classes, extracurricular activities, etc.). They must have basic knowledge about the contents of the educational institute programme (primary, secondary, music schools, institutions for children and adolescents with special needs) and enable the achieving of goals of the educational process by performing library activities. While doing so, the school librarian is faced with tasks, which we could divide into basic, additional and other. The basic tasks are the ones that relate exclusively to the operation of the school library – teaching the use of a school library and information (planning and executing the teaching in the library, conducting classes in library and information knowledge, counselling about the material loan, etc.), creating and managing the library collection (acquisition, processing, placing and presenting the material). Additional tasks are the tasks that relate to the work of a school library – organization and managing the reading badge, meeting with literary and other creators, clubs for the promotion of reading, support in writing research papers, organizing exhibitions, managing the textbook fund ... Under "other" one could include all of the tasks that are not directly linked with the operations of a school library and are usually derived from personal interests or enthusiasm of the school librarian – mentor of the school radio, school newspaper, organizing events or celebrations at the school, photography, editing the school website etc.