



Qualitative transformation of libraries in Serbia: Developing information literacy as an imperative

Vesna Župan

Association of Serbian Librarians, Belgrade, buzupan@rcub.bg.ac.yu

The libraries of Serbia concentrate on developing information literacy of their focus groups. They adjust themselves to the needs and requirements of users as much as they can. At the same time these institutions tend also to follow the international standards in librarianship and information activity as well. In addition, the libraries of Serbia are mostly non-profit, cultural and educational organizations. Contemporary librarians follow many tendencies in the world environment. Library 2.0 based on Web 2.0 is in the very core of the Information Society which is being permanently promoted. There are users and librarians as well who can create contents across Web by themselves. However, these results are very modest. The libraries of Serbia went out of their walls. They are in the phase of development when catalogues become electronic or global, when electronic contents are being used carefully, when users become electronic ones. E-culture is being promoted intensively. The penetration of new technologies makes possible for experts to think of the way libraries would get included into cities 3.0 although that moment is not so close to us. The Virtual Library of Serbia (VLS) functions well. Users may search Internet under very favourable conditions. Serbian Consortium for Coordinated Acquisitions exists and works efficiently tending to meet the expectations of students, researchers, professors, scientists from diverse professional fields. Thanks to the Consortium they may access full-texts of academic e-journals, download them and print as well. This paper will focus on the qualitative changes in the libraries. It will point out the advantages and problems in their work. Except this it will show how Total Quality Management (TQM) is being implemented in the libraries of Serbia.

Key words: libraries, Serbia, development, information literacy, qualitative transformation.