Dóra Szabó

University of Debrecen, Hungary
e-mail: szabo96dora@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-1547-2073

Erzsébet Dani

University of Debrecen, Hungary
e-mail: dani.erzsebet@arts.unideb.hu
ORCID: 0000-0002-8771-8335

László Nemes

Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest, Hungary
e-mail: nemes.laszlo84@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0001-9629-3677

Report on the international library and information scientific conference: the past years of BOBCATSSS

Dóra Szabó is a teaching assistant at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Debrecen (Hungary). She graduated in 2020 as a German language and culture teacher and Library and Information Science teacher. She is currently a researcher in the following projects; CHERD-Hungary, MTA-DE Parent-Teacher Cooperation Research Group, HERA Hungarian Association of Researchers in Education, and Associate Editor of the Central European Journal of Educational Research and "Pedagógusképzés" journal. Member of the BOBCATSSS Association Board (European Association for Library and Information Science Education and Research). She is also active in Erasmus+ and summer university programs. Her research interests are twofold; on the one hand, she focuses on future teachers and their digital attitudes, digital literacies and media and information literacy, and educational influencers, and on the other hand, on libraries, literacy education, and book influencers.

Erzsébet Dani is an associate university professor at the University of Debrecen, Hungary, who teaches several courses in Library and Information Science, Culture, and Literature. She graduated from Eszterházy Károly College, at Eötvös Lóránd University, and was awarded her PhD degree in Eötvös Loránd University Doctoral Program for Literature and Cultural Studies (2008). She got her habilitation degree (sociology, 2016) at the University of Debrecen. She is the Head of the Department of Library and Information Science and the Director of the Bács-Kiskun County Library. Her general research interests are reading research/digital reading narratives, dissemination of scientific results, cultural identity, and institutional history in the Carpathian Basin. She has two scientific monographs and several published studies.

László Nemes graduated with a Master of Information and Library Science; as a higher education and research management expert, he finished his archive master curriculum and a research and innovation manager. He completed his doctoral studies with his dissertation defense in 2024 at the ELTE Library Science Doctoral Program. His main research topic is knowledge transfer processes between universities and the private sector and the role of libraries in these. Since 2012, he has participated in several BOBCATSSS conferences as a visitor, poster or paper presenter and organizer.

Abstract: The BOBCATSSS organization, an annual event coordinated by library and information science students from various European universities, fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange within the library and information science (LIS). Since its inception in 1993, BOBCATSSS conferences have served as a significant platform for students, professionals, and academics to present research, discuss contemporary issues, and explore emerging trends in LIS. The unique student-driven nature of the conference ensures the inclusion of fresh perspectives and innovative approaches, reflecting the dynamic and evolving landscape of the discipline. Each year, the conference is hosted by different universities across Europe, promoting cultural exchange and enhancing the international dimension of LIS education and research. The themes of BOBCATSSS conferences are diverse, covering a wide range of topics such as digital libraries, information literacy, knowledge management, and the impact of emerging technologies on information services. By providing an interdisciplinary forum, BOBCATSSS facilitates the development of new ideas and the establishment of professional networks, contributing significantly to the advancement of LIS.

Introduction and background

BOBCATSSS (the organization's name is an acronym representing the cities of the original participating universities: Budapest, Oslo, Barcelona, Co-

penhagen, Amsterdam, Tampere, Stuttgart, and Szombathely) is an annual symposium organized by students from various European universities, focusing on topics within the field of library and information science (LIS). Established in 1993, as a collaborative initiative among students from several European universities, aimed at creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of library and information science (LIS). The mission of BOB-CATSSS is to facilitate an international platform for the exchange of ideas, research findings, and innovations in LIS. By emphasizing student involvement, BOBCATSSS promotes the professional development of future LIS professionals and fosters international collaboration and networking opportunities. Over the years, BOBCATSSS has grown significantly, both in scope and participation. The conferences have evolved to address the dynamic changes and challenges within the LIS field, reflecting contemporary issues such as digital transformation, information ethics, and the impact of new technologies on information services. Key milestones in the history of BOBCATSSS include its expansion to include a diverse range of topics, the introduction of virtual conference formats, and the increasing internationalization of participants and speakers. Each year, the conference is hosted by different universities, ensuring a rich variety of perspectives and expertise.

A distinctive feature of BOBCATSSS is its strong emphasis on student involvement. Students from participating universities uniquely organize the conferences, offering them hands-on experience in conference planning, management, and execution. This student-driven approach not only fosters leadership and organizational skills but also encourages active engagement and collaboration among young professionals in the LIS field. Students are responsible for various aspects of the conference, including theme selection, program development, and logistical arrangements, under the guidance of faculty advisors. This model of student participation enhances the educational experience by allowing students to contribute to and shape the discourse within their professional community, preparing them for future roles as LIS practitioners and leaders.

The objective of this report is to analyze the BOBCATSSS conferences held between 2020 and 2024, examining their themes, session highlights, and overall contributions to the LIS field. This analysis aims to identify emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities presented at these conferences, providing insights into how BOBCATSSS has influenced the professional growth of participants and contributed to advancements in LIS. By evaluating the content and outcomes of these conferences, the study seeks to understand the evolving landscape of LIS education and practice, and how BOBCATSSS continues to bepivotal in shaping the future of the discipline.

Analysis of Conferences (2020–2024)

BOBCATSSS 2020 (France)

The 2020 conference, hosted in Paris, France, was notable for its focus on "Information management, fake news and disinformation." Key themes included the impact of artificial intelligence, big data, and digital libraries on information management and access. The conference emphasized the role of technology in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of LIS services. Looking at the keywords of the accepted paper abstracts, the three most common keywords were fake news (N=13), information literacy (N=5), and media literacy (n=5). As we can see among them, fake news is widespread.

BOBCATSSS 2021 (Virtual)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 conference "Digital Transformation" was held virtually, hosted by Porto Polytechnic in Portugal. This format allowed for broader international participation and highlighted the resilience and adaptability of the LIS community. Topics included remote library services, digital literacy, and the challenges and opportunities of virtual learning environments. Among the keywords indicated in the abstract, digitalization (including the form of digitization) occurs most often (N=12), just ahead of digital transformation (N=10). These are followed by Covid-19 and libraries as keywords (N=5).

BOBCATSSS 2022 (Hungary)

In 2022, the conference returned to Hungary, specifically Debrecen. The event focused on integrating traditional and digital libraries, exploring the balance between preserving historical collections and embracing digital innovations. Discussions also centered on user experience design and the importance of accessibility in LIS services. The keywords in the abstracts of the 2022 conference paper, poster, and workshop abstracts also show a wide variation, with 14 of the more than 130 keywords occurring more than once. The three most frequent keywords were public library/libraries (n=5), Open Science (n=4), and bibliometrics analysis (n=3). It is interesting to note that COVID-19 was hardly used.

BOBCATSSS 2023 (Norway)

Held in Oslo, Norway, the 2023 conference expanded on themes of sustainable development and LIS. Participants explored how LIS can contribute to sustainability goals, with sessions on green libraries, sustainable information practices, and the role of libraries in supporting community resilience and environ-

mental awareness. Among the keywords of the abstracts of the 2023 conference, the most frequent were the following:

information behavior (n=7), academic libraries (n=6), public libraries (n=6), library/libraries (n=6), open access (n=5).

BOBCATSSS 2024 (Portugal)

The conference in Coimbra, Portugal, focused on "Information Profession and Sustainable Development." Anticipated topics included the role of libraries in supporting social justice, the ethical implications of AI in LIS, the future of information governance, trends, and common themes.

Key Findings and Recommendations
Strengths
- Innovation and adaptability: BOBCATSSS conferences consistently address current and emerging trends in LIS, showcasing innovative research and practices.
- Student engagement: The active involvement of students in organizing and participating in the conferences adds a dynamic and forward-thinking perspective.
- Diverse participation: The conferences attract a wide range of participants from different countries, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Weaknesses
- Virtual format challenges: The shift to virtual conferences presented challenges in networking and interactive engagement, which are integral to the BOBCATSSS experience.
- Resource allocation: Ensuring adequate resources and support for student organizers can be challenging, impacting the overall execution of the events.

Impact of LIS community

The BOBCATSSS conferences have a profound impact on the library and information science (LIS) community, promoting innovation, international collaboration, and professional development. These conferences serve as a vital platform for the dissemination of the latest research and innovative practices in the LIS field. By providing a space for students, researchers, and professionals to present their findings, share ideas, and discuss emerging trends and technologies, BOBCATSSS fosters a culture of continuous learning and adaptation within the LIS community. This ensures that professionals remain current with the latest advancements and methodologies.

Moreover, BOBCATSSS conferences attract participants from various countries, thereby encouraging international cooperation and understanding in LIS. The diverse participation enriches the dialogue and offers multiple perspectives on common challenges and opportunities. By facilitating international networking, BOBCATSSS helps build a global community of LIS professionals who can collaborate on research projects, share resources, and support each other's work.

A unique and significant aspect of BOBCATSSS is the substantial involvement of students in organizing and presenting at the conferences. This engagement provides students with practical experience in project management, public speaking, and academic research. It also allows early-career professionals to showcase their work and gain recognition in the field, empowering the next generation of LIS leaders.

Each year, BOBCATSSS conferences focus on themes relevant to the current state of LIS, such as digital transformation, sustainability, and the integration of artificial intelligence in LIS services. By addressing these contemporary issues, the conferences ensure that the LIS community is prepared to meet current and future challenges.

Participation in BOBCATSSS conferences also significantly contributes to professional development. Attendees have opportunities for continuing education, skills enhancement, and knowledge acquisition through workshops, keynote speeches, and panel discussions that provide insights into new tools, techniques, and best practices applicable to their work.

The emphasis on lifelong learning at BOBCATSSS aligns with the mission of many LIS institutions to support continuous education for their patrons and staff. The conferences highlight the importance of staying informed and adaptable in a rapidly changing information environment.

Furthermore, BOBCATSSS conferences foster a sense of community among LIS professionals. By bringing together individuals with shared interests and goals, these events create a supportive network where members can seek advice, collaborate on initiatives, and build professional relationships that extend beyond the conference itself, for example, it gives young professionals a serious opportunity in the field of publication opportunities in specific scientific rated journals with no publication charge.

Overall, the BOBCATSSS conferences play a crucial role in advancing the LIS profession. They provide a dynamic forum for discussing innovative ideas, promoting international collaboration, empowering new professionals, and addressing the evolving needs of the LIS community. The impact of these conferences is felt globally as they help shape the future of libraries and information services in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

Conclusion

BOBCATSSS conferences between 2020 and 2024 have demonstrated re-silience and adaptability in the face of global challenges. They have continued to provide a vital platform for LIS professionals and students to share knowledge, in-novate, and collaborate. Moving forward, building on these strengths, addressing the identified challenges, and ensuring that BOBCATSSS remains at the forefront of LIS education and research is essential.

References

BOBCATSSS. (n.d.). *Home*. August 20, 2024. https://bobcatsss.info/

Boustany, J., and Seccardini, G. (Eds.). (2020). *BOBCATSSS 2020 – Paris In-formation management, fake news and disinformation. Abstract booklet*. Bobcatsss.

Dille, N., Stegemeyer, M., Janus, L., Witten, M., Menzel, M.-A., Arnold, M., & Eichhorn, K. (2022). *30th BOBCATSSS Symposium - Book of Abstracts. BOBCATSSS 2022, Debrecen, Hungary*. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6619173

Henriksen, D., Khosrowjerdi, M., Johnston, J., Liguziński, M., Shuva, N. Z., & Skaug, J. (2023). *Proceedings of the BOBCATSSS 2023 Conference. BOBCATSSS 2023. A New Era – Exploring the Possibilities and Expand-ing the Boundaries, Oslo, Norway*. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zeno-do.8136825

folia
toru
niensia

Dóra Szabó

Uniwersytet w Debreczynie, Węgry
e-mail: szabo96dora@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-1547-2073

Erzsébet Dani

Uniwersytet w Debreczynie, Węgry
e-mail: dani.erzsebet@arts.unideb.hu
ORCID: 0000-0002-8771-8335

László Nemes

Uniwersytet Kościoła Reformowanego im. Károli Gáspára na Węgrzech, Budapeszt, Węgry
e-mail: nemes.laszlo84@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0001-9629-3677

Sprawozdanie z międzynarodowej konferencji naukowej poświęconej bibliotece i informacji: minione lata BOBCATSSS

Dóra Szabó jest Dóra Szabó jest asystentką dydaktyczną w Katedrze Biblioteko-znawstwa i Informacji Naukowej Uniwersytetu w Debreczynie (Węgry). Dyplom uzyskała w 2020 roku jako nauczyciel języka i kultury niemieckiej oraz nauczyciel bibliotekoznaw-stwa i informacji naukowej. Obecnie jest pracownikiem naukowym w następujących projek-tach; CHERD-Hungary, Grupa Badawcza ds. Współpracy Rodziców i Nauczycieli MTA-DE, Węgierskie Stowarzyszenie Badaczy Edukacji HERA oraz zastępca redaktora naczelne-go Central European Journal of Educational Research i czasopisma „Pedagógusképzés". Członek Rady Stowarzyszenia BOBCATSSS (European Association for Library and Infor-mation Science, Education and Research). Aktywnie uczestniczy również w programach Erasmus+ i uniwersytetach letnich. Jej zainteresowania badawcze są dwojakie; Z jednej strony skupia się na przyszłych nauczycielach i ich postawach cyfrowych, umiejętnościach

cyfrowych oraz umiejętności korzystania z mediów i informacji oraz influencerach edukacyjnych, a z drugiej na bibliotekach, edukacji w zakresie czytania i pisania oraz influencerach książkowych.

Erzsébet Dani jest profesorem nadzwyczajnym na Uniwersytecie w Debreczynie na Węgrzech, która prowadzi zajęcia z bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej, kultury i literatury. Ukończyła Eszterházy Károly College na Uniwersytecie Eötvösa Lóránda, a w 2008 roku uzyskała stopień doktora w Studium Doktoranckim Literaturoznawstwa i Kulturoznawstwa Uniwersytetu Loránda Eötvösa. Stopień doktora habilitowanego (socjologia, 2016) uzyskała na Uniwersytecie w Debreczynie. Jest kierownikiem Działu Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informacji Naukowej oraz dyrektorem Biblioteki Powiatowej Bács-Kiskun. Jej ogólne zainteresowania badawcze to badania czytelnicze/cyfrowe narracje czytelnicze, upowszechnianie wyników badań naukowych, tożsamość kulturowa i historia instytucjonalna w Basenie Karpackim. Ma na swoim koncie 2 monografie naukowe i kilka opublikowanych opracowań.

László Nemes uzyskał tytuł magistra informacji naukowej i bibliotekoznawstwa; Jako ekspert w dziedzinie szkolnictwa wyższego i zarządzania badaniami naukowymi ukończył studia magisterskie w zakresie archiwizacji oraz stanowisko kierownika ds. badań i innowacji. Tytuł doktora obronił w 2024 roku na Studiach Doktoranckich Bibliotekoznawstwa ELTE. Jego głównym tematem badawczym są procesy transferu wiedzy pomiędzy uczelniami a sektorem prywatnym oraz rola bibliotek w tych procesach. Od 2012 roku brał udział w kilku konferencjach BOBCATSSS jako gość, prezenter i organizator plakatów lub referatów.

Słowa kluczowe: BOBCATSS, konferencja, bibliotekoznawstwo i informacja naukowa, wymiana wiedzy, edukacja LIS

Streszczenie: Organizacja BOBCATSSS, coroczne wydarzenie koordynowane przez studentów bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej z różnych europejskich uniwersytetów, wspiera współpracę i wymianę wiedzy w ramach bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej (LIS). Od momentu powstania w 1993 roku, konferencje BOBCATSSS służą jako ważna platforma dla studentów, profesjonalistów i naukowców do prezentowania badań, omawiania współczesnych problemów i badania pojawiających się trendów w LIS. Unikalny, kierowany przez studentów charakter konferencji zapewnia włączenie świeżych perspektyw i innowacyjnych podejść, odzwierciedlających dynamiczny i ewoluujący krajobraz dyscypliny. Każdego roku konferencja jest organizowana przez różne uniwersytety w całej Europie, promując wymianę kulturalną i wzmacniając międzynarodowy wymiar edukacji i badań nad LIS. Tematyka konferencji BOBCATSSS jest zróżnicowana i obejmuje szeroki zakres tematów, takich jak biblioteki cyfrowe, kompetencje informacyjne, zarządzanie wiedzą oraz wpływ nowych technologii na usługi informacyjne. Zapewniając interdyscyplinarne forum, projekt BOBCATSSS ułatwia opracowywanie nowych pomysłów i tworzenie profesjonalnych sieci, przyczyniając się w znacznym stopniu do rozwoju LIS.

Dóra Szabó

Universität Debrecen, Ungarn
E-Mail: szabo96dora@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-1547-2073

Erzsébet Dani

Universität Debrecen, Ungarn
E-Mail: dani.erzsebet@arts.unideb.hu
ORCID: 0000-0002-8771-8335

László Nemes

Károli Gáspár Universität der Reformierten Kirche in Ungarn, Budapest, Ungarn
E-Mail: nemes.laszlo84@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0001-9629-3677

Bericht über die internationale Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaftliche Konferenz: die vergangenen Jahre von BOBCATSSS

Dóra Szabó ist Lehrassistentin am Institut für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft der Universität Debrecen (Ungarn). 2020 schloss sie ihr Studium als Lehrerin für die deutsche Sprache und Kultur sowie Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaften ab. Derzeit ist sie als Forscherin in den folgenden Projekten tätig: CHERD-Ungarn, MTA-DE Parent-Teacher Cooperation Research Group, HERA Hungarian Association of Researchers in Education wie auch stellvertretende Redaktorin von Central European Journal of Educational Research und der Fachzeitschrift „Pedagógusképzés". Sie ist auch Mitglied des Vorstands des Verbands von BOBCATSSS (Europäische Vereinigung für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaftliche Ausbildung und Forschung) und beteiligt sich aktiv an den Erasmus+ Programmen und Sommerkursen an Universitäten. Ihr Forschungsinteres-

se ist zweiseitig: Einerseits konzentriert sie sich auf die zukünftigen Lehrer und ihre digitalen Grundlagen, Kompetenzen und Fähigkeiten im Umgang mit Medien und Informationen wie auch auf die Personen, die die Bildung beeinflussen, andererseits auf Bibliotheken, die Bildung im Bereich Lesen und Schreiben sowie auf die Buchinfluencer.

Erzsébet Dani ist Professorin der Universität in Debrecen in Ungarn, wo sie einige Kurse im Fachbereich Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft, Kultur und Literatur leitet. Sie hat das Eszterházy Károly Kolleg an der Eötvös Lóránd Universität absolviert und einen Doktortitel im Doktorandenprogramm derselben Universität im Bereich Literatur und Kulturstudien (2008) erhalten. Sie hat auch einen Doktortitel (Soziologie, 2016) an der Universität Debrecen erworben. Erzsébet Dani ist Leiterin des Lehrstuhls für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft und Direktorin der Kreisbibliothek Bács-Kiskun. Ihr allgemeines Forschungsinteresse umfasst die Untersuchungen zu Lesen, digitalen Lesernarrationen, Verbreitung von Forschungsergebnissen, Kulturidentität und institutioneller Geschichte im Karpatenbecken. Sie ist Autorin von zwei wissenschaftlichen Monografien und einigen Bearbeitungen.

László Nemes hat einen Masterabschluss im Fachbereich Information und Bibliothekswissenschaft, als Spezialist für Hochschulmanagement und wissenschaftliche Forschung auch einen Masterabschluss in Archivierung sowie einen Abschluss als Forschungs- und Innovationsmanager. Er hat auch ein Doktorandenstudium absolviert und 2024 seine Dissertation im Rahmen des ELTE Library Science Doctoral Programme verteidigt. Sein wissenschaftliches Hauptinteresse konzentriert sich auf die Prozesse des Wissenstransfers zwischen Universitäten und dem privaten Sektor sowie die Rolle der Bibliotheken in diesen Prozessen. Seit 2012 hat er an einigen Tagungen von BOBCATSSS als Gast, Referent und Organisator teilgenommen.

Schlüsselworte: BOBCATSS; Tagung; Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft; Wissensaustausch; Bildung im Fachbereich Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft

Zusammenfassung: Die BOBCATSSS-Organisation, eine jährliche Veranstaltung, die von Studierenden im Fach Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft aus verschiedenen europäischen Universitäten koordiniert wird. Sie fördert die Zusammenarbeit und den Wissensaustausch im Bereich der Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft (Library and Information Science, LIS).Seit ihrer Gründung im Jahr 1993 stellt die BOBCATSSS-Konferenz eine bedeutende Plattform für Studierende, Fachleute und Wissenschaftler dar, wodurch sie ihre Forschung präsentieren, über aktuelle Probleme diskutieren und aufkommende Trends im Bereich der Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft erkunden können. Der einzigartige, studierendenorientierte Charakter der Konferenz gewährleistet die Einbeziehung neuer Perspektiven und innovativer Ansätze und spiegelt die dynamische und sich entwickelnde Landschaft dieses Fachgebiets wider. Jedes Jahr wird die Konferenz von verschiedenen Universitäten in ganz Europa organisiert, fördert den kulturellen Austausch und stärkt die internationale Dimension der Bildung und Forschung

im Bereich der Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft. Die Themen der BOBCATSSS-Konferenzen sind vielfältig und umfassen ein breites Spektrum an Themen wie digitale Bibliotheken, Informationskompetenz, Wissensmanagement und die Auswirkungen neuer Technologien auf Informationsdienste. Durch die Bereitstellung eines interdisziplinären Forums erleichtert BOBCATSSS die Entwicklung neuer Ideen und den Aufbau beruflicher Netzwerke und trägt somit erheblich zur Weiterentwicklung der LIS bei.