

Introduction

Respected Readers, we present to you the third issue of Scholarly Notebooks of Scientific Information – “Contemporary issues in communication and scientific information”. Studies. Sketches. Contributions. Following the convention which we adopted two years ago, the authors of this volume, which is published solely in English, were granted freedom of scholarly research on a variety of multi-faceted problems. Our series has no pretensions to being a synthesis. We consider complementary research interests and thematically limited issues equally as important as synthesis research papers that illustrate transformations of processes in communication and scientific information on a national and global scale. The articles, as in the two previous volumes, have been arranged according to the themes hinted at in the titles.

The volume comprises articles, written by scholars from various academic environments, concerning the role of the mass media in further education. The mass media, broadly defined, such as didactic films, audiovisual presentations, electronic compendia, www networks, have become everyday realities in the didactic process on all levels. Reflections on the role of mass media in further education, from kindergarten to retirement, or even in the age of post-production, are very important, as they illustrate diverse values and vices of the universal mass medialisation and computerisation in Polish and European education.

In this volume some authors focus on transformations of the cultural, political and educational space resulting from the rapidly-progressing economic and consequently, cultural globalisation. The life space of subsequent generations of Poles is changing almost on a daily basis, at a pace unknown in history, which results in the shift of lifestyles, ways of thinking, hierarchy of values and a rejection of the common historical and current stereotypes.

Another interesting theme is the reflections of a few authors on the role of various cultural goods in the new order society, meaning the emerging Polish information society.

The above correlates with articles by other authors on the necessity of protecting the unique written heritage, and its popularisation in the face of an ongoing domination of electronic documents.

Informational articles that illustrate the process of digitisation of various documents make the final part of the volume. Whether Poles of different ages, interests and needs can access historical and contemporary documents depends on the technical availability of not only national, but also regional resources. The process of digitisation of various documents is one of the elements that leads to equalisation of cultural and educational opportunities in Europe and within the country.

We believe that this volume will be received by gracious Readers as kindly as the two previous ones.

In this "Introduction" I would like to thank all the researchers who submitted the results of their studies in the form of articles sent for publication. All of them did it selflessly, without remuneration, as they believed there is a need to understand the processes of communication and scientific information in the advancing Polish information technologies society. Thank you very much.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the authorities of the Faculty of Pedagogy and Fine Arts for their financial support, as the printing of this book in English without that support would not have been possible, or undoubtedly much more difficult.

With my kindest regards to each and every Reader of this book

Scholarly Editor

Ewelina Burekiewicz