Circular no. 1

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library in Zielona Góra(WiMBP)

invites you to participate in an international scientific conference on the topic:

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE LIBRARY – INCLUSION IN THE WORLD OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE – THEORY AND PRACTICE
(8-9 November, 2016).

Partners:
The Zielona Góra University Library
The Polish Librarians Association – Main Board
The Institute of Information and Library Science at Wrocław University

The Department of Special Education and Social Prevention at Zielona Góra University

Conference venue: The Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library in Zielona Góra (WiMBP), al. Wojska Polskiego 9, 65-077 Zielona Góra; The Zielona Góra University Library, al. Wojska Polskiego 71, 65-762 Zielona Góra

*States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice.*(United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 21)

*States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life (...).*(United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 30)

 Our contemporary information and media-dominated world has given rise to many dangers, including the most dangerous one – that of exclusion. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to these risks. This fact has been noted by The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified by Poland in 2012), dedicated to upholding the idea of ​​social inclusion. Full participation of persons with disabilities in social life means, amongst other things, their having access to information and cultural goods.
 The modern library, considering all of the various educational, cultural, scientific and integrational functions normally assigned to it, is an institution that is expected to provide people with disabilities with extensive participation in the world of information and culture, free of any physical or mental barriers.

 According to the guidelines of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the willingness of libraries to fulfill this role has several aspects: premises and their surroundings, the nature of reading materials (alternative/accessible formats, adapted literature, special-format materials), the specificity of the content and scope of the collection, the principles governing comprehensive information about the collection, the specificity of assistive technology, the availability of websites of libraries, the nature of library services (the principles governing sharing of information), approaches and rules for working with disabled users, and the preparedness and competences of librarians in dealing with users with disabilities.
 What can contemporary library studies and information science tell us about the use of libraries and information when it comes to people with disabilities? How do Polish and foreign libraries cope with implementing the recommendations of the UN Convention and IFLA? What should be included in the library, in terms of information and pedagogical research, and what should be left to library practitioners, if the social inclusion of people with disabilities in libraries is to be not just an idea, but also a reality?

We would like to invite both theoreticians and practitioners to seek answers to these questions. Our conference aims to create an opportunity for reflection on the above-mentioned issues.
Its theoretical and practical discourse will be concerned with the following topics:
\* People with disabilities, disadvantaged people, incapacitated readers, people experiencing difficulties in reading print as users of the library and information system.
\* Library materials (form and content), assistive technology and access to information.

\* Offers of services and work with users with disabilities – ranging from use of the library by people with disabilities to cultural animation and bibliotherapy.
\* Real and virtual library spaces – premises and their surroundings, websites for library users with disabilities.

The Scientific Board of the conference includes:
Dr hab. Małgorzata Czerwińska, professor (Zielona Góra University), Department of Special Education and Social Prevention, Zielona Góra University (chairperson);

Dr hab. Bożena Koredczuk, professor at the Institute of Information and Library Science, Wrocław University;

Prof. dr hab. Elżbieta Barbara Zybert, Institute of Scientific Information and Library Studies, Warsaw University;

Dr hab. Małgorzata Fedorowicz-Kruszewska, Institute of Scientific Information and Library Studies, Mikołaj Kopernik University of Toruń;

Dr hab. Grażyna Miłkowska, Department of Special Education and Social Prevention, Zielona Góra University;

Elżbieta Stefańczyk, President of the General Board of the Polish Librarians Association;

Dr Andrzej Buck, Director of the Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library in Zielona Góra;

Ewa Adaszyńska, Director of the Zielona Góra University Library;

Dr Przemysław Bartkowiak, the Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library in Zielona Góra, Conference secretary (Polish participants);

Agnieszka Ginko-Humphries, the Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library in Zielona Góra, Conference secretary (foreign guests).

The conference will be interdisciplinary. The conference languages will be Polish and English. The Scientific Board of the conference reserves the right to select particular topics from the papers submitted. Speakers whose papers have been accepted by the Scientific Board will be informed by e-mail by 30th September 2016. The organizers envisage the following timings for presentations: long papers - 20 minutes, short papers - 10 minutes. Please save presentations in PowerPoint format (ppt 97-2013). For the duration of the conference, computers and multimedia projectors will be provided by us. The conference program will be announced in a separate press release. All information will be published on the conference website - http://konferencja.norwid.net.pl/

The Conference will be accompanied by some workshops for librarians (practitioners), and an exhibition of alternative library materials and supportive technologies.

The fee for each participant involved in the conference as a speaker accepted by the Scientific Board is 300 zł (zlotys), and is 150 zł for other participants in the conference; the fee for participation in workshops will be announced in our next circular.

The fee must be paid by 15th October, to the following account:
Bank BZ WBK - branch in Zielona Gora - 59 1090 1535 0000 0000 5301 9070
Please put as the title of the transfer "Conference on persons with disabilities at the library", along with the name of the speaker.

If you are interested in participating in the conference, please fill out the questionnaire (the declaration of participation) and send it by post or e-mail, along with a brief abstract of your proposed paper (up to 1000 characters) in Polish and English, by 30 June 2016, to:
Dr. Przemyslaw Bartkowiak (Polish participants) or Agnieszka Ginko-Humphries (foreign participants)
The Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library
al. Wojska Polskiego 9, 65-077 Zielona Góra,
telephone: 68 45-32-618, 45-32-606 68, 68 45 32 638
e-mail: bartkowiakprzemyslaw@wp.pl (Polish participants); b.obcojezyczna@wimbp.zgora.pl (foreign participants).

If you are interested in participating in workshops, please contact the Department of Research, Analysis and Methodology at The Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library,
al. Wojska Polskiego 9, 65-077 Zielona Góra,
Telephone: 68 45-32-619
e-mail: dbaim@wimbp.zgora.pl

The organizers would like to publish the conference papers in “Zielona Góra Library Studies” (Zielonogórskie Studia Bibliotekoznawcze), so please provide texts by15th January 2017. Detailed instructions for publication will be posted in due course on the conference website - http://konferencja.norwid.net.pl/.

We look forward to your participation in the conference,

Yours faithfully,
on behalf of the organizers,
Dr. Andrzej Buck
Director of The Cyprian Norwid Regional and City Public Library

Declaration of participation in the international scientific conference

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE LIBRARY – INCLUSION IN THE WORLD OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE – THEORY AND PRACTICE
(8-9 November 2016).

Form of participation in the proceedings (please underline as appropriate):
1. Presenting a paper
2. Passive participation
3. Participation in the workshops

First name and family name :……………………………………………………………………
Title, scientific degree and position held: ................................. ............................... …………..
Affiliation:……………………………………………………………………………………….
Postal address for correspondence: ........................................................................ .....................
E-mail address:………………………………………………………………………………….
Telephone number:……………………………………………………………………………...
Subject of the paper in Polish and English: .................................... .............................. .............
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Technological equipment required for presentation of the text: .................................................. ……..…………………………………………………………………………………………….
Abstract (up to 1000 characters) in Polish and English
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Please notice that VAT invoices can only be issued for the following:
- the institution paying for the participant’s application,
- an individual participant who pays for his/her own participation in the conference, within 7 days from the date on which the conference fee arrives at the bank account of the University.

Place, date and signature