


Current trends in library and information science in the light of PhD research and studies – 6.

Interview with László Nemes

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The editorial team of CELISR conducted a short interview with recent graduates of the Library and Information Science doctoral program at the ELTE Doctoral School of Literary Studies, in order to provide the journal's readers with an insight into the current and future scientific activities of researchers, and to give an idea of the current research trends in the field. The following article contains a brief overview of the PhD research conducted by László Nemes, with background and future prospects.
information flow, universities, private sector, human sciences, research, interview, PhD program, Hungary

Nemes, L. (2025) *The information flow system between Hungarian universities and private sector, with special reference to the human sciences*
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 Supervisor: Péter Kiszl

Please say a few words about your professional life, your inspirations.



Photo: Dr. Norbert Bencze

My main interest has always been the use of knowledge – how it can be applied, especially in the overlap between higher education, cultural institutions, and the private sector. I am inspired by the question of how knowledge becomes real value, both at the institutional and social level. I find it important to think across disciplines and to explore how the public and private sectors can work together. In my work, I have tried to connect experiences from the education, research, government, and business sectors.

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Please give a comprehensive summary of the research on which your PhD studies are based.

The main topic of my dissertation was the flow of information between higher education – especially in the humanities – and the private sector. This topic is rarely studied in Hungary, and even international research covers it only to a limited extent. Because of this, I used mainly qualitative research methods. I studied three Hungarian universities – Debrecen, Szeged, and ELTE – at library, faculty, and university levels, and also looked at three international university libraries: UCL (UK), Tallinn University (Estonia), and Eastern Illinois University (USA).

During the research, I conducted 17 in-depth interviews with university leaders, library directors, and representatives of private companies. One of the main findings is that knowledge created in the humanities also follows clear transfer paths, but these are not always the result of planned processes. University libraries are often overlooked in these processes, even though they play a key role in preserving and sharing knowledge.

Using the OECD's framework for entrepreneurial universities, I examined how open humanities faculties are to business partnerships. While there is willingness, most institutions lack clear feedback and quality control systems. I identified several "knowledge pathways" through which informal or unmeasured cooperation happens. I described two good practices in detail: a joint project between ELTE's Faculty of Humanities and a bank to develop large language models, and a collaboration between the University of Debrecen and local service companies.

These examples show that knowledge from humanities education can be useful for companies and that knowledge transfers can go both ways. My aim was not only to show existing connections but also to prove that technical and natural sciences are not the only valuable areas in the knowledge economy.

Who are the primary "beneficiaries" of your research – librarians, users, policy makers?

I believe the results of my research can support decision-making at universities, library planning, and cooperation with private partners. It offers new ideas for university leaders, librarians, and innovation managers on how humanities knowledge can be used in practice. I also hope that policy makers will find it useful to better include the humanities in national innovation.

Please summarize the main conclusion(s) of your thesis.

The main conclusion of my dissertation is that clear information flows exist between universities and the private sector even in the humanities, but these are often not planned or managed. To improve knowledge transfer, universities need stronger knowledge management and should rethink the role of their libraries. The research also showed that companies often do not see the value of humanities knowledge. This can be improved with better communication and strong partnerships. I hope the results help to better understand the economic role of universities and support new interdisciplinary cooperation.

What has Eötvös Loránd University given you – professionally, personally, communally?

ELTE is not only my alma mater, it's where I learned the foundations of my research and development work. I gained a lot personally from my teachers and student

communities. At ELTE, I first got to know how organizations work. I'm happy to now work at the university, where I coordinate a digital learning repository that supports teachers in reusing and managing learning materials more easily.

Please say a few words about your future research plans.

I am currently working on research infrastructures. I am also interested in how artificial intelligence can help organize and use the data and knowledge created in universities. I plan to study the rules and systems that are needed for these processes. One of my goals is to develop new ways to measure the value of humanities education for the economy and society.



Current trends in library and information science in the light of PhD research and studies – 7.

Interview with Rita Radó

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The editorial team of CELISR conducted a short interview with recent graduates of the Library and Information Science doctoral program at the ELTE Doctoral School of Literary Studies, in order to provide the journal's readers with an insight into the current and future scientific activities of researchers, and to give an idea of the current research trends in the field. The following article contains a brief overview of the PhD research conducted by Rita Radó, head of the Research Management Department at the HNMPCC National Széchényi Library, and assistant lecturer at the Institute of Library and Information Science of the Eötvös Loránd University, with background and future prospects.

national libraries, digitization, research, organisational development, Hungary, PhD program

Radó, R. (2024) *Changes in the functions of national libraries in the digital age - Comparative analysis of organisational development changes in leading European national libraries in the process of digitisation*

<https://doi.org/10.15476/ELTE.2023.234>

Supervisor: Péter Dippold

Please say a few words about your professional life, your inspirations.



Photo: Lajos Karasz

My professional journey has been shaped by a deep commitment to library and information science.

I currently serve as Head of Research Management Department at the HNMPCC National Széchényi Library and as a lecturer at the Department of Library and Information Science at Eötvös Loránd University. Although balancing these two roles can be demanding, I consider myself fortunate that they are so closely aligned and mutually reinforcing. My responsibilities at the national library – including project work, participation in international organizations, and various professional activities – provide a rich foundation for my teaching.

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This allows me to integrate both theoretical perspectives and hands-on experience into my university courses, offering students not only academic insights but also practical knowledge grounded in real-world contexts. Conversely, the collaborations and international initiatives I take part in through my university role regularly inform and enrich my work at the library. I believe this dynamic interplay between research, practice, and education is one of the most rewarding aspects of my professional life.

Please give a comprehensive summary of the research on which your PhD studies are based.

In my doctoral dissertation, I highlight that library innovation is a highly complex and often contradictory area within Library and Information Science. Much of the existing literature focuses on the introduction of new services or systems in libraries, without adequately addressing the organizational challenges these innovations may pose. My preliminary studies revealed a significant gap in the scholarly discourse: very few publications examine the structural and operational transformations that inevitably accompany innovation in libraries. These changes affect workflows, organizational hierarchies, and overall institutional functioning, yet they are rarely discussed in depth. While most analyses of library innovation adopt a theoretical perspective, they often fail to offer practical, applicable solutions.

A central focus of my dissertation is the impact of digitization on library collections and professional practices. As digitization advances, not only do collections evolve, but the ways in which librarians carry out their tasks also change. However, institutional structures and operational models often remain rooted in traditional approaches, and many libraries struggle to respond effectively and swiftly to these shifts. This creates a persistent tension between conventional library roles and structures, and the emerging demands of digital information systems and services.

One of the key aims of my research is to demonstrate that this tension is not insurmountable. Through organizational development and structural rethinking, libraries can adapt and better meet the needs of their users. To illustrate this, I conduct a detailed analysis of four leading European national libraries, examining how digitization has driven organizational transformation over the past 30 years. I place particular emphasis on the digitization activities, projects, and national programs these institutions have implemented, and explore the various directions in which integration of digitization workflows has evolved.

Who are the primary "beneficiaries" of your research – librarians, users, policy makers?

My research primarily benefits librarians and policymakers by analysing the digitization strategies and organizational transformations and how leading European national libraries have integrated digitization workflows over the past 30 years. It serves as a practical guide for cultural institutions seeking to implement or improve their own digitization strategies, highlighting organizational changes and broader library areas affected by integration. It also provides a theoretical framework that can support broader organizational changes beyond digitization.

Please summarize the main conclusion(s) of your thesis.

The research reveals that the intention to digitize collections and provide access to digital materials emerged simultaneously across the four major European national libraries. While initial recognition and planning occurred in parallel, significant differences were found in how each institution approached digitization: in the development of digitization workflows, strategic support, the maturity of their concepts, the existence and content of strategic guiding documents, workflow integration, and organizational adaptation.

The study highlights that digitization-related processes are shaped by each library's mission, strategy, and partnerships, and it further demonstrates that organizational transformation is not linear, and there is no universal model for structural change. Libraries often lack tools and expertise to assess and manage organizational development effectively. Therefore, the dissertation offers practical models and insights to support institutions in planning and coordinating complex transformation processes.

What has Eötvös Loránd University given you – professionally, personally, communally?

ELTE has played a fundamental role in shaping both my academic and professional development.

I am particularly grateful for the professionalism and intellectual generosity of my supervisor and the faculty, whose guidance and high standards have contributed significantly to the quality of my research and teaching. Their expertise and commitment have had a lasting impact on my thinking and approach to research.


During my doctoral studies, I had the opportunity to build strong professional relationships with fellow PhD students, many of these relationships have since evolved into valuable long-term collaborations and friendships. These interactions have greatly enriched my scholarly work and strengthened my sense of belonging within the academic community.

Please say a few words about your future research plans.

In my professional journey, I aim to maintain the dynamic triad of teaching, research, and library practice, which I consider the most effective framework for meaningful academic and professional engagement. This integrated approach allows me to stay connected with both theoretical developments and practical realities in the field of Library and Information Science. I plan to continue my research in the areas I have already begun exploring, with particular focus on digitization strategies and inclusive library services for persons with disabilities. Additionally, I am committed to further contributing to the field of quantitative and qualitative methods in LIS, especially within the scope of QQML (Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries).

Current trends in library and information science in the light of PhD research and studies – 8.

Interview with Judit Vántsa

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Hungarian minority, Romania, public libraries

Vántsa, J. (2025) *The affairs of the Hungarian minority's public library in Romania after, 1945 as reflected in the Hungarian minority library trade press of Romania*

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Supervisor: János Fodor

Please say a few words about your professional life, your inspirations.



Photo by the author

Between 1990 and 1993, I completed the library assistant training at the National Széchényi Library in Budapest. In parallel, I started working at the Town Library in Kézdivásárhely (Romania) in December 1990, where I still work to this day. I was the head of the institution from May 2001 to December 2023. Between 1996 and 1999, I completed my librarian specialty studies at the Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College in Szeged. Between 2000 and 2002, I finished my librarian and information technology studies at

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the József Attila University, which is also in Szeged. This was followed by the ELTE BTK Doctoral School of Literary Studies, where I graduated in 2024.

Please give a comprehensive summary of the research on which your PhD studies are based.

Until now, there has been no comprehensive description or summary of the development, progress, scientific communication, results and activity of Hungarian minority librarians in Romania. I undertook the work of collecting information from specialized library publications, because it was the only source that gave news about the affairs of Hungarian librarianship in Romania capturing continuous historical changes and the development of the profession. The aim of the research was to collect, process, and publish the important moments in the operation of the Hungarian minority public library in Romania.

In 2006, my supervisor, Dr. Krisztina Voit and I thought that I should review all sources and all types of documents related to the topic. However, when we were faced with the huge amount of material, we decided that going forward, I would base the analysis solely on the articles published in the trade press. The truth is that, at the time I had already reviewed and had referenced some Hungarian library articles, and collected material from many study volumes, non-library periodicals, the State Archives in Sepsiszentgyörgy, and news materials found on library websites. Later on, the Hungarian librarians in Romania had a mailing list, an electronic newsletter, and a Facebook group (in fact, several of them), from which they received much more information about the operation and activities of the libraries. We also managed to get to know each other better, there were more opportunities and occasions for communicating and discussing of professional issues. When I was not able to find answers to my questions in the periodicals, I contacted the competent people in private correspondence, so that the topic could be properly concluded. It is obvious that I used all these materials, since they expanded, gave color and made the thesis more accurate and understandable.

Since the use of material from the trade press had already the basis of my thesis, I thought that I should process the periodicals from the perspective of press history as well. Not all of them were specialized library periodicals, as in the case of *Művelődés* (Culture). However, they published many articles related to public libraries over the years, and they even had two library supplements: *Könyvtár* (Library) and *Könyvesház* (Bookhouse), so I included the journal in my research.

The thesis begins with the chapter titled the History of Press. This is followed by the three main chapters: *The affairs of Public Library 1945–1967*; *The affairs of Public Library 1968–1989*; *The affairs of Public Library 1990–2023*. In these chapters, I discuss: the evolution and characteristics of the public library of the given period; the establishment and role of public library networks; book and library promotion methods; the civil organizations of the profession; vocational training; and other library aspects.

In the Chapter 6, titled *Comparison with the Hungarian institutional system*, I highlighted the contrast between the Hungarian and Romanian library trade press and institutional systems.

In Chapter 7, *Summary*, I reviewed the thesis as a whole, defining the main conclusions of the dissertation. This is followed by Chapter 8, Appendices, in which I collected the important aspects about the activities of individual libraries that support, highlight, or supplement the main points of my thesis. In this chapter

I included the reports of the travel-meetings, conferences, and other events of the Association of Hungarian Librarians in Romania (RMKE). Furthermore, this chapter contains the photos and charts.

Who are the primary "beneficiaries" of your research – librarians, users, policy makers?

The main beneficiaries are librarians and library science students.

Please summarize the main conclusion(s) of your thesis.

The aims that I have accomplished in my thesis were to assemble a thorough description about the development, progress, scientific communication, achievements and work of the librarians of Hungarian minority in Romania.

I do not consider research on the subject to be closed. The processing of a considerable number of articles on the public libraries of various settlements was left out of the thesis due to limitations of scope.

To provide a more complete and comprehensive history about the affairs of the Hungarian minority's public library in Romania, it is necessary to analyse of further sources, such as: archival materials, books and other documents. The disadvantage of processing of press materials published before 1989 is that they reflect only the aspects of everyday reality that were allowed to be shown at that time. Therefore, the presentation of topics such as censorship, the the activities of the Ministry of Home Affairs, requires the identification of other sources.

The history and development of other types of libraries (trade unions, school, church collections) of Hungarian interest in Romania is an area still waiting to be researched.

Please explain why and how you chose Institute of Library and Information Science at Eötvös Loránd University.

Since I had completed my university studies in Hungary, I wanted to continue my doctoral studies here. The quality and accessibility of the university were also important factors in my choice. For three years, I had to travel by train every two weeks, covering nearly 800 kilometers. As fate would have it, the airport, which is an hour's drive away from where I live, opened a month after my doctoral defense.

Please say a few words about your future research plans.

I am currently writing articles in the online encyclopedia of Kézdivásárhely.¹ Further on, I would like to create an online encyclopedia of Hungarian libraries and librarians in Romania, with the cooperation of the Hungarian Library Association in Romania, modeled after this city's encyclopedia.

I would also like to write the history of our library, established in 1842, for which I am currently collecting materials.

I currently lead three bibliotherapy groups and give lectures in the surrounding towns to promote reading and libraries.

¹ <https://www.kezdilexikon.ro/>