

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

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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.

