

Current trends in library and information science in the light of PhD research and studies – 3.

Interview with Viktor Zsömle

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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 Viktor Zsömle, with background and future prospects.

Internet of Things, IoT in libraries, interview, PhD program, Hungary

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Supervisor: Péter Kiszl

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



Photo: P. Nagy, Pályi Bernadett

I have been working at the University Library and Archives of Széchenyi István University (Győr), since 2010. I work as a librarian and as the Institutional Administrator for the Hungarian Science Bibliography. I completed my PhD studies in the Library and Information Science PhD Program at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest in 2024. At present I am a lecturer at the Institute of Library and Information Science at Eötvös Loránd University and I also teach a course for PhD students at Széchenyi István University. I am honoured to have the opportunity to work at two universities simultaneously – it is a big challenge. I like teaching and consider myself for-

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tunate to be in a position to practice it. My objective in my research work is to aim to explore new opportunities that will help Hungarian libraries and librarians.

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

My research attempts to provide an exact review of the library aspects of the Internet of Things (IoT). I attempted to make a comprehensive review of the theoretical background, thus I reviewed almost 500 literature sources. The dissertation mostly relies on international literature in English, but also includes Hungarian and Italian references. Among research methods we need to mention the bibliometric analysis of the IoT topic and quantitative analyses, which are presented in five survey questionnaires.

The exploration of the opportunities provided by the Internet of Things (IoT) in libraries has no significant literature in Hungarian yet, therefore the dissertation can be regarded as a summarizing niche study.

First of all, the dissertation puts a great emphasis to get from general information to the presentation of applicability in the library. My objective also includes the possible translation of the IoT into Hungarian, the exploration of its historical aspects, and a bibliometric analysis related to the topic. Bibliometric analysis is significant in the exploration of related disciplines.

I mention as a significant outcome of the dissertation that it does not only function as an interdisciplinary, summarizing document which presents various technologies, such as RFID or iBeacon or applying Augmented Reality only through descriptions, but through actual examples implemented or to be implemented in libraries, thus providing an insight into an already functioning smart library project.

The possible, not the actual application of the Internet of Things is the central objective of my dissertation. Thus besides presenting the effective solutions used in practice I also show examples of applications already stopped, but which may be useful for future developments, as well as those which still exist in theory, mostly in literature.

Providing a definition for a smart library: based on literature review.

The dissertation, relying on the review of literature and the results of the questionnaire surveys aims to build a theoretical Internet of Things (IoT) library model. The model systematizes the opportunities provided by the IoT as shown in the dissertation on three levels.

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

My primary objective is to support librarians through my research, enabling them to offer new and useful services to their users. While the findings (my research) may be valuable to a broader audience, the research is specifically intended to benefit librarians as the main target group.

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

The results of the dissertation offer opportunities concerning the feasible Internet of Things to every member of the library system in Hungary. The introduced smart library definition, and the Internet of Things (IoT) library model provide good starting points for library developments in the future. The dissertation,

beyond its relevance to libraries also provides new results and further research paths for experts dealing with the topic of the Internet of Things.

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

I started to deal with the library aspects of the Internet of Things (IoT) as a Library and Information Science MA student in Szombathely.

It was my big dream to continue my research as a PhD student. There was no question for me that I have chosen the Institute of Library and Information Science at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Péter Kiszl (Director of the Library and Information Science PhD Program), who has provided support and guidance throughout the entirety of my PhD studies. I have gained a significant amount of professional experience during my time on the Library and Information Science PhD Program. My PhD defence was the 50th since 1997 and I am very proud to have been part of the history of the PhD program.

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

The Eötvös Loránd University has given me a high professional and friendly environment when I was a PhD student. The Professors were always helpful at the PhD Program.

During my studies, I get acquainted with numerous Hungarian PhD students with whom I have maintained a strong professional relationship ever since. The Program's popularity is also demonstrated by the increasing number of the international PhD students.

It was a great pleasure to participate in the conferences organised by the Institute of Library and Information Science, which provided a great opportunity to build new professional relationships.

Please say a few words about your future research plans.

As I mentioned earlier I enjoy teaching and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to continue doing so at both universities. I also aim to publish new articles and present at conferences on the connection of the Internet of Things and the library. I am planning visits to foreign university libraries. The purpose of these visits is to identify new and effective good practices that can be implemented in Hungarian libraries. I recently had the opportunity to visit the University of Udine (Università degli Studi di Udine) in Italy. It was very useful to meet with the Italian librarians.

