

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Bibliographical Universe

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Abstract

The article is an essay on bibliography, about its power and value. The bibliography universe perceived from the informational perspective reveals the representation levels regarding: the bibliographical thesaurus; support of the bibliographical information; organisation and communication of the bibliographical information; the bibliography users.

From the perspective of the knowledge theory, the competency field of bibliography is situated at the level of the whole human knowledge, and its referential function is found in the efficient administration of the multi-dimensionality of information.

Keywords: *Bibliography, Representation Levels, Informational Value.*

Through a particularization of a well known collocation we can sustain and argument the fact that who rules over the biographical universe holds the power of the information.

The idea of bibliography as a slightly new component in the universal Republic of the books succeeding to establish a real balance between the existence and the circulation of the bookish information, operates in the same respect.

The dynamics and complexity of the information, no matter the material support, have triggered incipient chaos elements, annihilated through projecting and construction a system of operative procedures and customs of stocking and structuring the information, specific to the

biography which: “exposes the knowledge, appreciation, selection and dissemination methods for books, it systematizes the knowledge about books and presents the elaboration methods of research papers and bibliographical lists.” (1)

Such an integrating vision of the bibliography in the spiritual sanctuary of the book unravels the temptation of this intelligent invention of governing the publications from a double motivation: the hoarding of the cultural memory and the exploitation of the intellectual universal patrimony. Explanatory valences of this assertion are found in the value analysis belonging to professor Louise-Noëlle Malclès regarding bibliography: “[which] leads to knowledge of the literary world, of what it has been written and printed in the past, of what it is being printed every day, it gives life and movement to the book, it facilitates the reading and it disseminates it, it creates the emulation of thought and labour [...]. Bibliography has accumulated [...] for centuries an enormous mass of information about which we unfairly believe we can dispose of in order to rebuild the facts of history.” (2)

In a modern opinion the bibliography: “elaborates orderly stocks, either references to documents, or directly usable information and it restores them, in an available and accessible manner, to the users.” (3)

In directly explanatory terms we can say that bibliography is an intellectual product of the human community which functions on every level of a document’s existence.

In a conceptual form, the bibliographical universe contains the following representation levels:

- *Bibliographic thesaurus* reflected in the diverse ensemble of information;
- *The support of the biographical information* beginning with clay plates, papyrus, paper to digital option;
- *Organisation and communication of the biographical information*: structures, speciality - organisms, informational channels;
- *Bibliography users*: both individual beneficiaries as well as interested institutions.

If we refer to the competence area of bibliography, from the knowledge point of view, we will mention that it is situated at the level of the whole human knowledge with multiple modalities of informational expression through specific instruments with a complex functionality, capable of sustaining and offer dynamics the creative thinking. In this respect Louise-Noëlle Malclès, is perfectly right when she sustains that the bibliographical activity is based on: “researching, identifying and organizing

the documents in the purpose of making up instruments dedicated to supporting the intellectual labour (bibliographies, bibliographical repertoires). It represents a mosaic of landscapes, each revealing a different aspect [...]. Among the selections named bibliographies or bibliographical repertoires, there are a few tens of thousands because bibliography indicates the books printed in all the epochs and in all the countries, presenting in this way a painting of the cultural thesaurus accumulated by nations along five centuries.” (4)

The predominant opinion on the referential function of bibliography shows the capacity of efficiently administrating the multi dimension of information from its interest profile, through research, analysis and information organisation in its competency field, often accompanied by value reference on the investigated documents. Situating in the same field of functional particularities, Marcelle Beaudiquez appreciates: “At a general level bibliography fulfils more functions: it grants quicker and more precise information to the readers, it orientates the reader towards the other documentary centres which can better answer his demands, it establishes the documentation for various subjects on readers’ demand, it traces documents and allows the achievement of two major international programs: C.B.U and Universal Access (U.A.P.) by locating documents”. (5)

Marking, in this manner, the significance of bibliography, we further more add the importance of the fact that it is centred on the complementary nature of the intercessions and the inter-disciplinary nature of the information. Also, bibliography is an open communication environment between man and book, between present and past, also possessing the ability of transmitting bibliographical messages which can determine the acceleration of innovation in the miraculous world of the book. Unfortunately, as Neonila Onofrei states: ”We have jet to fight against the mentality according to which [...] the biographer does nothing more than simple lists of books [...], and the bibliographies are «modest» things, which do not require too mush knowledge, nor discerning abilities.” (6)

Even so, we will still present a biographer’s profile blocked in with a lot of passion and persuasion power, 60 years ago by Traian Heroiu, who, in spite of the much to ample quote, will be presented in full:

“The biographer picks, orders and brings out the written text, bringing light into an enormous and confused writings’ labyrinth, It represents his strive. The biographer seeks to exhaustion a certain field in order to find absolutely all which has been written, so that the product of his work would be complete and after him no one else would find another document in that field and in the same time zone. It represents his consciousness. Therefore,

the biographer does not miss any writing regarding a given problem. He takes his time. He thoroughly seeks, with passion and assiduity, being aware of the fact that any omission weakens his work. It represents his patience. The biographer pays very much attention to the notes he makes regarding the author, the book or article title, the page the publishing house, etc, in order to correctly correspond to the found and registered field. It represents his precision. The biographer does not start the work in any given manner. Randomness confuses him. He always has a work plan in his investigation and a pattern in all which he gathers or puts together. It represents his method. The biographer keeps his work updated, he periodically completes it with new works, and after it has ended his activity, he would like that the one engaging on the same path follows him conscientiously. It is in the same time, his perseverance and his will. The biographer, in the end, is aware of the fact that his work is more useful to others than it is to him, that he places the outgrowth of his work to the disposal of an anonymous consumer, always a researcher, and probably a creator. He chooses, puts together and gives away disinterestedly. Just like a bee. It is his nobility. “(7)

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