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Abstracts

Promoting the Information Literacy: Research Collaboration in the Citizen Science Projects

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Purpose

This report highlights the extending role of libraries and other memory institutions due to the progress of Open Science and particularly Citizen Science. Citizen Science is a developing practice with various stakeholders, combining strengths and resources, engaging in research by addressing societal needs and global problems, and developing a knowledge society. Libraries play a relevant role here by promoting collaboration among various stakeholders and increasing information and scientific literacy.

Methodology

The international project LibOCS (Project Number: 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125) was the framework for the chosen methodology and study. Two surveys were run in the Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The first survey was held from April to July 2022. The second survey was built based on the data obtained in the first survey, and it was held from June to September 2022. The feedback received from both semi-structured questionnaires was 127 filled and valid for analysis responses of the first survey and 60 of the second one.

Gathered data helped to list the opinions and experiences of researchers, librarians, and specialists of other memory institutions, citizen scientists, or volunteers engaged in Citizen Science projects. The research of available information highlighted only a few Citizen Science projects aired in the Baltics with the engagement of library specialists (Kaseorg, 2022; Dobрева, 2015; Bite, 2020), therefore, it was decided to widen the range of respondents, and to run the surveys also among other memory institutions.

The QuestionPro tool was exploited to design surveys and collect data, and content analysis was used as the method of data analysis.

Findings

Respondents in the Baltic States expressed the willingness to collaborate with memory institution specialists in Citizen Science projects. The answers of the respondents witness the expanding role of the memory institutions specialists in research with the ability to perform the tasks related to organizing training on information, digital, data, and scientific literacy, as well as to giving support for Citizen Science projects through community conventions and promotion of knowledge sharing culture.

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