26th Annual Professional Seminar for Librarians and Information Specialists

Digital Transfer: Libraries for Digital Inclusion

State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica

25. and 26. May 2027

Dear colleagues,

In an era when the digital world is evolving at a breakneck pace, access to information is becoming a cornerstone of social equality. Libraries have long since ceased to be mere guardians of the printed word—they have become key hubs of digital inclusion. They are places where we bridge divides, make modern technologies accessible, and teach society to grow safely and confidently in the virtual space.

The 26th annual nationwide professional seminar for librarians and information specialists, *TLib – Trends in Libr@ries 2027*, focuses on practical solutions for digital inclusion. Our goal is to share real-world experiences, exchange proven know-how, and work together to build libraries as open, safe, and technologically advanced centers for the entire community. A new feature of the 26th edition is the seminar's revised structure, which emphasizes the immediate application of knowledge into practice:

- Day 1: Theoretical lectures, visions, trends, and examples of good practices from Slovakia and abroad,
- Day 2: practical seminars, interactive workshops and demonstrations, discussions, and the sharing of expertise among librarians.

We look forward to receiving your contributions to the following topics:

1. **Open Access: The Library as a Technological Lifeboat**

Content: Providing access to hardware, software, and the Internet for socially or economically disadvantaged groups who cannot afford modern technology at home.

Purpose of the presentations: How to effectively manage computer zones in libraries, how to attract these communities, and how to ensure they have an equal starting point in the digital age.

2. **Digital Compass: Learning to Find Your Way (Seniors & Children)**

Content: Targeted educational courses, teaching methodologies, and practical experience in teaching the two most vulnerable groups—seniors (combating digital isolation, government e-services) and children (critical thinking, online safety).

Purpose of the presentations: To introduce successful models of digital courses for seniors and interactive activities for youth.

3. **Assistive Technologies in Practice: A Barrier-Free Library**

Content: Practical implementation of technologies that promote the inclusion of readers with specific needs.

Purpose of the presentations: Real-world examples, including specialized solutions for the blind and visually impaired. The special guest and guarantor of this session will be the Matej Hrebenda Slovak Library for the Blind in Levoča.

4. **Librarian Upgrade: New Skills for Modern Spheres**

Content: Digital inclusion starts with the staff. In order to educate the public, we must first educate ourselves.

Purpose of the presentations: How to train library staff on digital trends, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and working with disadvantaged groups. How to transfer know-how from one library to another.

5. **The Digital Horizon: Visions and AI in the Service of Inclusion**

Contents: A Look into the Future. What Will Libraries Look Like in 5 or 10 Years?

Objective of the presentations: Using artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality, and other emerging technologies to make library services more accessible, personalized, and inclusive.

The event will also include

Library Incubator - 10th Annual Forum for Young Library and Information Specialists

This year's incubator will focus on practical seminars and interactive workshops. We invite you to share your expertise on cybersecurity and the practical and safe use of artificial intelligence tools in the daily lives of seniors and other vulnerable groups.

State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica will organize three external expert workshops on the topic of:

- Staying Safe in the Digital World,
- AI in the Hands of Seniors,
- Information Technology for Users with Special Needs.

Please submit proposals for seminar presentations and incubator workshops via the online form available at https://svkbb.eu/tlib2027 by **December 4, 2026**. The seminar organizers reserve

the right to select from among the submitted proposals. We will send you confirmation of your application acceptance by **December 15, 2026**. Please submit your papers, in accordance with the information and guidelines for authors that will be published on the website, no later than **January 31, 2027**, to the following email address: tlib@svkbb.eu. The papers will be published in a peer-reviewed collection.

Expenses related to participation in the professional seminar shall be covered by the participant or the sending organization.

The registration form for passive participants will be open after the program is published.

We look forward to seeing you.

Organising Committee:

Mgr. Tomáš Albert, State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica

Ing. Mária Balcová, State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica

Mgr. Mária Bôbová, PhD., State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica

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