



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE POLISH PACKET OF CONTRIBUTION “ON THE LAND CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS...” OR ON THE WAYS AND FORMS OF ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE ON THE POLISH REGION PODLASIE**

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In the name of the informal group of employees of the University in Bialystok and public libraries of the Podlasie region, I would like to present the project of a “packet” of Polish contributions, which are **connected by common aims**: (1) promotion of knowledge of the Podlasie region – a multicultural Polish region of European borderlands – (general data about the region in a ppt presentation) by presenting selected university research works and the librarians’ practical works towards facilitating access to various sources of knowledge about Podlasie, (2) discussion – following Polish examples – of criteria of evaluation and the importance of literary work in promoting knowledge of the language, culture and nature of the region, as well as the formation of identity in the multi-cultural local and regional communities, through the actions of public libraries, which join promoting knowledge and local literature, using e-technology of information and communication to connect authors, readers and librarians, as well as – which is particularly important – initiate their participation in creating literary web resources; (3) promotion of new sources of knowledge and information on the Polish region Podlasie, which boasts rich, untainted nature and an attachment to the values of national tradition.

In the Polish packet of contributions there are suggestions of papers in two subject groups: for the first part of the conference *The Epistemology of Knowledge* with presentations mostly concern the topic: *The challenges of managing knowledge in a multicultural context* and the third part: *Social networks and collaborative knowledge*, where our papers are connected with two subjects: *Access to knowledge* and *Personalizing and adapting content*.

The contributions in the packet under the common name “*ON THE LAND CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS...*”: *Knowledge Of The Polish Region Podlasie* come in a variety of forms (including various speeches, presentations and a DVD form a workshop) and present work already finished and still in progress, which serve to spread sources of knowledge through various written forms, events and information sources concerning the region (including e-information in WWW). In their presentation authors refrain from using fashionable (in business context), but unprofessional (rather journalist slang than



scientific) term *knowledge management*. Instead they rather refer to methodological and organizational efforts connected with facilitating access to reliable, carefully selected and professionally described information sources, which form a foundation of regional and local knowledge. Particular attention is given to the direct contacts between authors and researchers with children and young readers. By commenting and interpreting source texts and literature according to hermeneutic concepts, researchers share their knowledge and life experience with the readers. Thus they teach how the effort to learn about reality, in connection with information from a variety of critically evaluated sources, turns into the knowledge of an information user, a watcher of reality, as well as a careful reader, able to assess the value of literary, scientific, non-fiction and professional publications. The further subjects of the presentation include the relations of direct transfer of knowledge from authors and librarians in the form of workshops or staging of literary works, especially poetry. An important element of the presented material connected with the children's librarians' work is the creation of an interactive interoperability space in WWW when making a book (literary author / nature / society researcher – librarian and teacher – intermediaries – child reader and student-illustrator).

All the presentation have in common a reflection on the methods of spreading knowledge, both through library and book research and in library practice in Podlasie, in the context of the specific community, as well as the individual information needs and varied level of communicative competence (including linguistic problems) in a multi-cultural community.

The methodological connection between the presentations is referring to the paradigm of the structure of cognitive processes of modern science (based on the Polish translation of the French encyclopedia '*La science au présent*' - '*The World of Contemporary Science*'). All authors search for the answer to the question: **if and to what extent does this paradigm, created to spread the achievements of modern science, can be effectively used to form awareness and spread knowledge on regional and local identity.**

The essence of our research attitude is to analyze the process of gaining knowledge in the relation: human – the perceived reality (observed – pictured/expressed – understood thanks to questions and discussion – managed – allowing to form/produce new elements – and spread).