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**áté Tóth, A könyvtárak társadalmi szerepei  
empirikus kutatási adatok tükrében, Szentendre,  
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Dóra Szabó is a PhD student at the Doctoral Program on Educational and Cultural Sciences at the University of Debrecen (Hungary). She graduated in 2020 as a Teacher of German language and culture and a Teacher of Library and Information Science. During her university years, she began discovering the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), digital competence and digital literacy of future teachers based on online information, as well as fake news. Her research field focuses on future teachers and their digital attitude, digital education skills. The main question is what kind of impact fake news and influencers have on education.

K

**eywords:** library; legitimation; social role; Hungary

A

**bstract:** The article is a discussion of the Hungarian book by Máté Tóth, a researcher and librarian in Hungary: "Social Roles of Libraries in the Light of empirical research data" (Szentendre, Hamvas Béla Pest Megyei Könyvtár, 2022), in which he draws attention to the social roles of libraries. The author substantiates the reason of this role with his empirical research. The book is a broad overview of one of the most exciting and much-discussed matters of today's Hungarian culture, the world and role of reading, books, the press, elec-

tronic media, mobile phones, the Internet, and comprehensively Hungarian reading culture. The author attempts to prove the legitimacy and social role of libraries based on the statistics, library sociology measurements and empirical research of recent decades.

Máté Tóth's volume covers an area that is closely related to education and general literacy; functional illiteracy, compulsory reading, digital literacy, media are all recurring themes in the book. However, the author does not start with this but discusses the issue of the right to exist of libraries and the librarian profession in the introduction. In the information society of the 21st century, we all may wonder when the digital revolution, artificial intelligence, will defeat libraries or if it can even overcome the services and experiences provided by libraries. We can read quotes from several articles in which librarianship and the needlessness of the library are highlighted, thus Máté Tóth draws the attention of the reader to it but, fortunately, their important role is aligned.

The author attempts to prove the legitimacy and social role of libraries based on the statistics, library sociology measurements and empirical research of recent decades. For this, four main sources (three domestic and one international) are designated:

- data from the National Széchényi Library,
- Cultural Statistics data,
- Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library, My library project,
- ALMPUB international project.

In the book's first part, we can read a broad overview of the literature on the social situation, place and role of the library and the librarian profession. The author lists domestic and international empirical research and comparisons in which his own previous data collection, analysis and empirical research are also published, providing the reader with a comprehensive picture. From the international comparisons, I would highlight the differences between Hungary and the Scandinavian countries. While the proportion of regular library users in our country is 12-15%, in the Nordic countries it is 60-80%, which may be a surprising figure for laymen, since we are talking about more developed nations; In the case of Finland, Norway, Denmark or Iceland, development entails state-of-the-art libraries and services (which I myself have experienced in a public library in Oslo), which cannot necessarily be said about our country. It is also clear from international research that the library's role as a community space is getting increasingly prominent.

It can be regarded as a curiosity that the author refers to measurements that took place from the 1960s, from which both diachronic and synchronic images emerge on the topics of library membership, library use, library members, but reading, media usage habits, book buying, and home book collection also come to the fore. All of this is presented in the light of library use, mostly chrono-

logically, differentiated by social strata, by settlement, by generations, with tables and extensive data. The author refutes many stereotypes in his work. It is not true that the spread and use of the Internet would make the use of libraries redundant, as people who live an active online life often become library users. Digital competence and critical thinking are closely related to this fact; fake news, advertisements and information contamination complicate the process of finding information on the Internet.

Finally, in the final chapter, the author describes the trends and as a result, we can also read about the social role of libraries here. He deals with the social perception and the prestige of the library as an institution, as well as the international and domestic point system of demands placed on librarians. The author attempts to prove the legitimacy and social role of libraries based on the statistics, library sociology measurements and empirical research of the recent decades.

Máté Tóth draws four conclusions during the summation:

- Libraries have more and more functions, and providing information is neither the only nor the most important function.
- The majority of library users are from strata with high education and socioeconomic status,
- Reading, frequent internet use and book buying also have a positive effect on library use, as the library supports these activities,
- Lending books is the only activity that places libraries in a monopoly position.

The past century has also brought far-reaching functional changes in the field of libraries, and their role is constantly changing. Máté Tóth defends the prestige of libraries against the Internet (which does not necessarily carry with it the usefulness and positive perception of libraries). The empirical research listed in the book also supports that the library and the Internet are not rivals.

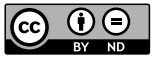
I close my description with the author's result, the thesis statement: "The library is an open, multidimensional cultural community space, in which there are many encounters due to the contents, and as a result of the encounters, continuous value creation takes place. So many meetings, so much inspiration, so many new ideas, so many new values. The unique value-creating ability of the library system can be grasped in the openness that manifests itself towards the contents, the users, and the constant changes, the increasingly diverse services adapted to the needs of the times. This special ability to create value represents the long-term legitimacy of libraries."

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**Máté Tóth, A könyvtárak társadalmi szerepei empirikus kutatási adatok tükrében [Społeczne role bibliotek w świetle empirycznych danych badawczych], Szentendre, Hamvas Béla Pest Megyei Könyvtár 2022, ss. 193  
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Dóra Szabó jest doktorantką na Studiach Edukacyjnych i Kulturowych na Uniwersytecie w Debreczynie (Węgry). Studia ukończyła w 2020 roku jako nauczyciel języka i kultury niemieckiej oraz nauczyciel bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej. Podczas studiów zaczęła odkrywać technologie informacyjno-komunikacyjne (ICT), kompetencje cyfrowe i umiejętności cyfrowe przyszłych nauczycieli w oparciu o informacje online, a także fałszywe informacje. Jej obszar badawczy koncentruje się na przyszłych nauczycielach i ich cyfrowym podejściu, umiejętnościach edukacji cyfrowej. Głównym pytaniem jest, jaki wpływ na edukację mają fałszywe informacje i influencerzy.

**Słowa kluczowe:** biblioteka; legitymacja; rola społeczna; Węgry

**S****treszczenie:** Artykuł jest omówieniem węgierskiej książki Máté Tótha, badacza i bibliotekarza na Węgrzech: „Społeczne role bibliotek w świetle empirycznych danych badawczych” (Szentendre, Hamvas Béla Pest Megyei Könyvtár, 2022), w której zwraca on uwagę na społeczną rolę bibliotek. Autor uzasadnia rolę tej roli swoimi badaniami empirycznymi. Książka jest szerokim przeglądem jednej z najbardziej ekscytujących i szeroko dyskut-

wanych kwestii współczesnej kultury węgierskiej, świat i rola czytelnictwa, książek, prasy, mediów elektronicznych, telefonów komórkowych, Internetu i wszechstronnie węgierskiej kultury czytelniczej. Autor podejmuje próbę udowodnienia zasadności i społecznej roli bibliotek w oparciu o statystyki, pomiary socjologii bibliotecznej i badania empiryczne ostatnich dziesięcioleci.

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**Máté Tóth, Die sozialen Funktionen von  
Bibliotheken im Licht von empirischen  
Forschungsergebnissen, Szentendre, Hamvas  
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Dóra Szabó ist eine Doktorandin im Bereich Bildungs- und Kulturwissenschaften an der Universität Debrecen (Ungarn). Im Jahr 2020 wurde sie Lehrerin für deutsche Sprache und Kultur sowie Lehrerin für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft. Während ihres Universitätsstudiums begann sie, sich mit Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien, digitalen Kompetenzen und den digitalen Kompetenzen zukünftiger Lehrer im Kontext von Online-Informationen und Fake News auseinanderzusetzen. Ihr Forschungsschwerpunkt liegt auf angehenden Lehrern und ihrer digitalen Einstellung sowie ihren Fähigkeiten in der digitalen Bildung. Die zentrale Fragestellung ihrer Arbeit lautet, welchen Einfluss Fake News und Einflusspersonen auf die Bildung haben.

**S**

**chlüsselworte:** Bibliothek; Legitimierung; soziale Rolle; Ungarn

**Z**

**usammenfassung:** Der Artikel diskutiert das ungarische Buch „Soziale Rollen der Bibliotheken im Licht empirischer Daten“ von Máté Tóth, einem Forscher und Bibliothekar in Ungarn (Szentendre, Hamvas Béla Pest County Library, 2022), in dem er auf die soziale Rolle von Bibliotheken aufmerksam macht. Der Autor begründet die Berechtigung dieser Rolle durch seine empirische Forschung. Das Buch bietet einen breiten Überblick über eines der aufregendsten und am weitesten diskutierten Themen in der zeitgenössischen

ungarischen Kultur – die Welt der Bücher, Zeitungen, elektronischen Medien, Mobiltelefone, des Internets und der facettenreichen ungarischen Lesekultur. Die Autorin versucht, die Berechtigung und die soziale Rolle von Bibliotheken anhand von Statistiken, bibliothekarischer Soziologie und empirischen Studien der letzten Jahrzehnte nachzuweisen.