

International ELINET Symposium 2018
“Literacy in the 21st Century: Participation – Inclusion – Equity”.

July 23-24, 2018, Cologne, Germany



Section IV The gender gap in literacy: How to engage boys?

Chairs: Christine Garbe, University of Cologne, Germany & William G. Brozo, George Mason University, USA

Monday, July 23, at 16.00–17.30 **Location:** Seminar Building/ Room S 21

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

New insights into male book reading preferences in Russia

Presenters:

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Abstract:

Discussions in professional community about a list of books that could be recommended for reading to any person and could serve as a guide for reading promotion inspired the *Reading Association of Russia* to carry out a research project “Reading that Unites Us”. The aim was to collect and analyze data about literature reading repertoire of schoolchildren, students and professional community including teachers, professors and librarians to provide a better understanding of reading preferences of today’s lovers of reading. The research was held in two rounds involving 1128 participants. The first round took place in 2013 and a second one in 2014 involving only male students and followed by additional research on male reading held in 2015. The primary objectives were to get a cross section of literature read today and explore the circles of reading of the target groups of readers. The data was collected both through online and paper survey questionnaires. The respondents were asked to indicate gender, age group, occupation, place of study\work, also to provide information about since when they have become lovers of reading and name three books: the one that influenced them, the one that they want to discuss, the one that they want to recommend for reading. We analyzed the collected data by ranking the books in order of frequency of the titles occurring in the questionnaire and grouping the books in clusters of ten most frequently named. We also analyzed the respondents’ choice in relation to the characteristics of the reader, characteristics of the book, character of reading (reading for learning, reading for pleasure). The presentation will focus mainly on the findings related to male reading.

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Bio Note:

Natalia Smetannikova, Prof.,Dr., studied the English Language and Linguistics, Psychology and Methodology of teaching foreign languages in Moscow Linguistic University, got her qualifications as a university teacher of foreign languages and her doctorate in Educational Psychology. Since 1973 she taught academic courses of Psychology and Methodology of Teaching at the same University, worked as academic assistant in the field of “Teaching Reading in Foreign Languages”, “Text Readability”, etc. “Reading Strategies” has been the academic topic through life, which allowed to integrate reading, linguistics and psychology. Interest in male and female reading is a new one, it resulted from the project “Reading that unites us”. In 1996 Natalia Smetannikova started Reading Association in Russia which united experts from different spheres and has been running it since that time. RAR is well known for big projects: “School where Literacy Thrives”, “Reading in Print and from Screen”, “Reading that Unites Us”. She has participated in big National Projects like “National Program for Reading Promotion and Development in Russia” (2007), “National Program for Reading Promotion of Children and Youth” (2017), “Reading Regions of Russia” (2016-2018).

Elena Ovchinnikova studied English Language and Methodology of teaching foreign languages in Moscow Linguistic University, got her qualification as a university teacher of the English Language. From 1980-2005 she worked as a teacher of English and administrator at school. In 1999-2003 she completed courses of professional development “Teaching Reading in Foreign Languages”, “Pedagogy and Psychology of Reading” taught by Prof. Natalia Smetannikova. From 2005-2013 she worked as Associate Professor at Moscow Linguistic Institute, Department of Linguistics and Intercultural

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Communication, where she taught a course of “Literature Reading” and a practical course of “Reading Strategies”. Since 2014 she has worked at Moscow University of International Relations teaching a course of English and Reading Strategies to students specializing in Political Science. She has taken part in international research projects “Portfolio Assessment”, “Schools Where Literacy Thrives”, and the latest RAR research project “Reading that Unites Us”.