



УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У БЕОГРАДУ
ФИЛОЛОШКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ

UNIVERZITET U BEOGRADU
FILOLOŠKI FAKULTET

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the 17th international scientific conference **MELISSA** (Museums, Ethics, Library and Information Science, Studies, Archives) on the topic **Libraries Along the Silk Road**, which will be held from 28th to 30th September 2018 at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade. This will be the seventeenth international scientific conference organized in continuity by the Faculty of Philology on an annual basis: *The Meeting of Librarians of the Balkan countries: Cooperation, Education, Quality* (2002), *Intellectual Freedom and Modern Libraries* (2003), *The Economic Role of Libraries in Modern Society* (2004), *Children and Libraries* (2005), *Leadership in Libraries* (2006), *Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning* (2007), *Electronic Library* (2008), *Ethics in Science and Culture* (2009), *The Book and Language* (2010) *Digitization of Cultural Heritage, University Repositories and Distance Learning* (2011), *Cultures in Dialogue* (2012), *Serbia between East and West: Science, Education, Culture and Art* (2013), *First World War in Culture and Bibliography* (2014), *Digital Humanities* (2015), *Virtual Culture* (2016) and *Transculturality and Libraries* (2017).

The International Scientific Conference *Libraries Along the Silk Road* aims to contribute to the exploration of the cultural, literary, scientific history of civilizations on the Silk Road, the transversal of the Mediterranean and East Asia. The road was of great historical significance, because it connected two different cultural concepts and models of development that are still distant. Transmitted by various roads, silk became a symbol of the connection between East and West, a metaphor of various myths and legends. Marco Polo's testimonies are among the first transcultural findings about peoples and their peculiarities, art, philosophy, religion, laws, traditions of peoples who he visits and trades with them. Commercial, political, diplomatic, and missionary reasons have encouraged the development of the Silk Road, where religious ideas, philosophical views, literary achievements, and scientific knowledge were exchanged. Significant techniques, such as the production of parchment, then paper, and printing of books, have a revolutionary influence on the development of civilization. Libraries are true cultural centers and lighthouses and metaphors of cultural ascent. A multifaceted, multidisciplinary study of libraries on the Silk Road, at a diagonal and synchronous level, will indicate the connection between cultures, on which civilizational, economic and political contacts are still being upgraded.

The Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade cordially invites you to participate in the conference, with a kind request of submitting your short biographical data, topic, abstract (up to 1500 characters) and keywords of your presentation by Jun 1, 2018 at the following email address: libraries.silk.road@fil.bg.ac.rs. The application form can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.fil.bg.ac.rs/fakultet/naucni-skupovi-i-konferencije/>.

Conference languages are Serbian and English. We would appreciate if individual presentations would not exceed 15 minutes each. The exact schedule of presentations will be posted on the website of the Faculty upon the completion of application process. A list of recommended hotels in the centre of Belgrade and instructions on location of the Faculty can be found at the following link: <http://www.fil.bg.ac.rs/fakultet/naucni-skupovi-i-konferencije/>.

Respectfully yours,

The Chair of the Organizational Committee

Prof. Aleksandra Vranes, PhD

Dean of the Faculty of Philology

Prof. Ljiljana Markovic, PhD

