

Conference „Digital literacy and strategies for digital inclusion”

Croatian Reading Association (CroRa) is a national association that promotes literacy and holds an annual professional conference on September 8, date of the International literacy day. Goal of the conference is to gather professionals and initiate discussions in Croatian society on literacy and the importance of reading.

This year, in cooperation with the Croatian Library for the Blind and Školska knjiga (publisher), professional conference „Digital literacy and strategies for digital inclusion” will take place (live or online, depending on the epidemiological situation), on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 in Zagreb.

In the last few decades, in modern society, we have been witnessing many significant changes in reading and writing initiated by the digital revolution. Since digital world is becoming more and more dominant over physical world it is important to pay attention to digital inclusion, so that every member of society, including those in unfavorable positions, would have access to informational and digital technologies.

Theme of the conference is traditionally directed towards connecting literacy experts on all levels from kindergartens and school, to universities, families, libraries and whole communities.

Following question should be answered at the conference:

1. Will digital technologies make it easier for those excluded from the learning process, or will they actually raise new, even bigger barriers?
2. Are the increasing fears, that the use of digital technologies as tools for communication, shopping, Civic engagement and learning, will make bigger, more serious gaps between certain parts of society, justified?
3. In what way should we participate in the development of digital economy and society?

Special guest lecturer will be **Jeroen Clemens**, expert in the field of digital literacy and language teaching, independent consultant, coach, researcher, teacher and speaker who lives in Netherlands. He is a member of ELINET’s Thematic Working Group - Digital Literacy, responsible for research project “Enhancing Digital Literacy Skills: Good Practices for Early and Primary Years Education” for 2020/21.

The keynote lecture will be given by **Boris Jokić**, Ph.D., senior research associate, director of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, who will present the results of a recent research on students' experiences in the online and classroom environment.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

Boris Jokić, Ph. D. (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb): Introductory lecture

Sandra Kučina Softić, Ph. D. (University of Zagreb, University Computing Center - SRCE): Digitally Competent Teachers for Creative Digital Students

Jelena Lešaja and Ivana Vinko (Croatian Library for the Blind): Digitally Inclusive Library Services for the Blind

Jeroen Clemens (ELINET Association - European Literacy Policy Network Association): Digital Literacy: A Challenge for All of Us

Josip Strija (Croatian Network of School Librarians): Digital Gap or Constant Challenges for School Librarians

Emica Calogjera Rogić, MSc. (School book): Publishing in the Pandemic Age

Nives Tomašević, Ph. D., Associate Professor (Josip Juraj Strossmayer University, Academy of Arts and Culture, Department of Culture, Media and Management): Reading smart texts and expanding the reader's reality

Majda Milevoj Klapčić and Petar Dundara (Mate Blažine Labin High School): Small free libraries from the re-Book startup

Professional magazine Hrčak no. 61-62 will contain abstracts of the presentation of the conference. The official language of the conference is Croatian, but the conclusions will be translated into English.

Applications for participation in the conference via google form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tafQhwTl22gPUI5dpaw9U5xKpEdUj7Q3SE2_Z3VwScY/viewform?edit_requested=true

Online registration of participants will last from 9.30 to 10 am, and is expected to last until 2 pm. The link for the online conference will be published later.

About Croatian Reading Association <http://hcd.hr/o-nama/about/>