On the 7th and 8th of June 2021, a scientific conference with international participation “Non scholae, sed vitae discimus... (book culture – personalities – school life)” was held. The conference should have taken place in Prešov, but due to the ongoing pandemic of the coronavirus it was held online. The conference was organized by the State Scientific Library in Prešov.

The conference was organized on the commemoration of events related to the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation (1861), which captured, among other things, the issue of cultural requirements, the issue of the Slovak language and its use, as well as education. In connection with this, the individual blocks of the conference were conceived on a broad thematic level and experts could present papers focusing on the aforesaid Memorandum, the history of education, major schools and their teachers, textbook creators, textbooks and other teaching aids, association activities, life in schools, or personalities who have contributed to the elevation of education, culture, or national awareness during their lifetime.

During the two days of the conference, lectures were given by more than 30 experts from Slovakia, Austria and Ukraine. Individual papers were divided into 5 conference blocks. In each block, the presentations were followed by a discussion. Despite the fact the conference participants could not meet in person, the discussions were stimulating, and the experts exchanged a lot of information, experience and recommendations. The papers presented at the conference will be published in the almanac after the review process.

As stated by the organizers, the aim of the conference was to offer (mainly to the professional public) interesting papers on the issue of education in the past and the present (a period between the 17th – 21st centuries). The title of the conference Non scholae, sed vitae discimus (We do not learn for school, but for life) is a well-known quote by the Roman philosopher, teacher, writer, and statesman Lucius Annaeus Senecus, whose idea is still relevant today. At a time of an ongoing pandemic and distance education, we often ask ourselves questions related to the level of schools, the quality and availability of textbooks or the role of good teachers. We also reflect on the knowledge of students, and especially those who leave school and then integrate into the labour market.

In general, it can be stated that the goal of the conference has been fulfilled. The conference included a wide range of contributions from several scientific disciplines and offered researchers the opportunity to show their methodological approaches and findings with other colleagues. The contributions were positively received not only regarding their topics but also with the way they were presented. They also provided inspiration for further research.
More information about the conference and the program can be found at:

https://www.svkpo.sk/novinky/127/pozyvame-vas-na-vedecku-konferenciu-non-scholae-sed-vitae-discimus-v-dnoch-7-8-6-2021

or at:

https://www.svkpo.sk/data/Konferencia_Non_scholae_program_mail.pdf

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