

BIOGRAPHY

Mara Despotov, MA

After completing her secondary education at "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj" Gymnasium in Odžaci in 1994, Mara Despotov, MA, enrolled at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad. She graduated in 1999, earning the title of *Professor of Serbian Language and Literature for National Minority Education*.

She passed the professional librarianship examination at the Matica Srpska Library in 2006. In 2012, she completed postgraduate studies in Librarianship (a second-cycle Bologna study program) at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, successfully defending her Master's thesis entitled *"Information Literacy of Students and Staff According to ACRL Standards No. 2 and 4"*.

Since 2007, she has been employed as a librarian at the "Prof. Dr Slavko Carić" Library of the Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary, University Business Academy in Novi Sad, where she performs professional duties in the field of librarianship.

Since 2009, she has been a member of the Editorial Board of the scientific and professional journal *Law – Theory and Practice*, where she is responsible for language editing and proofreading of manuscripts, as well as the assignment of DOI and UDC numbers. Since 2022, she has also served as an editor of the *eNauka* portal, which monitors the research performance of researchers in the Republic of Serbia.

As the coordinator responsible for depositing digital objects in the *PHAIDRA ReSearch* digital repository of the "Svetozar Marković" University Library, she coordinates the collection, processing, and deposition of researchers' scholarly publications, ensuring their long-term accessibility, visibility, and compliance with the principles of Open Science.

Since 2020, she has been a member of the Organizing Committee of the international professional and scientific conference *"Legal Days – Professor Slavko Carić PhD"*.

In 2024, she was awarded the senior professional title of *Senior Graduate Librarian*, confirming her high level of professional competence and continuous professional development in the fields of librarianship and information science.

She is the author and co-author of numerous scholarly and professional papers in the fields of librarianship and information literacy, published in national and international publications. Her work focuses on contemporary challenges in library and information services, Open Science, and the advancement of information literacy.

She continuously pursues professional development in the fields of research and librarianship and actively participates in accredited professional seminars.

She lives and works in Novi Sad.

She is married and the mother of two children.