

EDITORIAL

ON Patience to Read

Everyone is talking in public places and media about the acute lack of interest in reading, especially about the tendency to get informed through ‘ready-made ideas’. Usually, the finger is pointed at young people who are said that no longer want to read the materials thoroughly but catch up summaries from someone else who has read those materials and, many times, is not interested in presenting the real content.



Ph.D.Eng. Petrin DRUMEA
MANAGING EDITOR

That is what happened to me, too, with a group of young people in which I have great confidence and which I do not suspect, not for a moment, of wicked intentions. We had a discussion about upgrading an activity (the organizing of a scientific event) of interest to our team and I noticed that many of their proposals proved that they have not read the history of the event in question, as they kept presenting ideas that have been tested over time and produced unconvincing results as possible innovations. Knowing the very good quality of this group of young people, I asked myself about the reason for this situation, which actually is not unique.

The first idea that came to my mind was that the possible fault lies with the guys who taught them at school (and especially accepted the fact) that there is no need to read a book, it is enough to get a summary of it from somewhere on the Internet, and ‘swallow’ that summary ‘without chewing’ it.

The second idea was that the Internet has become nowadays the only source of information, and there is no checking of the information found by other sources.

The third idea was that people are taught from a tender age (the school age) that one can be ‘self-sufficient’ if one can get money with no effort and as an almost unlettered person, especially since television and newspapers give a lot of such examples every day.

After a more serious analysis, I have come to the conclusion that it is hard to convince someone to love reading and thus to get a serious self-education, even a serious technical self-education, as long as too many of those who occupy one’s time, either as teachers or as managers, prove that there is a great difference between theory and daily practice.

I’m beginning to think I have addressed a difficult topic, which I do not quite master, and which may cause me some inconvenience with people I really care about. So, I’d better stop here, and, in the end, I wish that the topic of this editorial not to be a real one but a wrong impression of mine.

Wishing you all good health,
Petrin Drumea