

## **Symposium**

Chairperson: Natalia Kurikalova, RAR, Moscow, Russia

### **Atomicity of reading: the new shape of the "Reading that Unites Us" (RUU) research project**

Nataly Smetannikova, President of RAR, Russia  
nataly.smetannikova2015@yandex.ru

Natalia Borisenko, Elena Popova, Elena Rudick, Aleksandr N. Voropayev, RAR, Moscow, Russia

To know what we read is as important as it is to know how to teach and promote literacy. Literature has the power to unite people across age, gender, and cultural differences, revealing the values that we all share. They are entrenched into all European and national documents, such as the European declaration of the right to literacy and the concept of national program to promote the reading of children and youth. The members of the Reading Association of Russia (RAR) decided to conduct a research project, titled "Reading that Unites Us" (RUU), to unite groups of people around the books they have read. They surveyed more than 1,000 readers including children, youth and adults by asking them to complete questions on the lists of books that different readers have read and to determine which of these books have encouraged them to continue reading and learning. A new trend was noticed, which was called the atomicity of reading. Schoolchildren, especially teenagers, read different books. In some cases, it was difficult to make a list of five to six books that have been read by the students of one grade beyond the compulsory list. It brought new insight into the project. The study included not only the reading of boys and girls, but also the reading of children with special needs, of Orthodox church schoolchildren, and of school and university teachers. We looked at reading from print and from screen. The groups became smaller and the outcomes more surprising! The data will be presented at the Symposium together with the conclusions to assist educators in adapting evidence-based and cognitively demanding instruction to the needs and interests of learners.