

Elmar Mittler, University Librarian
Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen, Germany

As an introduction to our final discussion, I would like to make some remarks about the development of relations between Libraries and Universities - or Universities and Libraries – from a historical perspective, and focus on some of the Conference’s main outcomes in regard to Libraries.

Some Historical Pointers

1. Alexandria

Libraries may die: there, is for example, the famous Library of Alexandria. Historians continue to have unending discussions about the date when this Library was destroyed. Nobody really knows, and perhaps it was destroyed neither by purpose nor by accident. Alexandria was a Library with a lot of papyri, and the lifetime of papyrus in Alexandria was no longer than about a hundred and fifty years. For this reason, the librarians had to re-write and make new copies of every text they had collected at least once every hundred and fifty years – an activity that future librarians may have to undertake in a similar way for electronic material. The Library of Alexandria was capable of being destroyed without any wanton act of destruction if the necessary library infrastructure was no longer functioning. We should bear that in mind when we think about the future of libraries and information provision for Universities.

2. The Self-Sufficient University

Let us have a look at Heidelberg University where I worked as the librarian for more than a decade. It was founded in 1386. Marsilius of Inghen, a former professor in Paris, was the first rector. He brought a lot of books with him, as did his colleagues. These collections established the foundation collection of the University Library. Prince Elector of Heidelberg Ludovic III created an additional library (opened 1436) in the Holy Ghost Church, with 122 manuscripts partly bought in Paris. But, in principle, the new university was able to provide the necessary materials through its own professors. As a consequence, at that time the University was a self-sufficient information provider for teaching and research.

3. A Regular Budget

That situation changed in the period of Humanism, and mainly after the invention of the printing. In 1559, for the first time, provisions for a library budget were made: Prince Elector Heinrich V left instructions in his will that 50 guilders should be spent on new books at every Frankfurt Fair. Advances in printing, the rapid publication of new ideas, and fresh developments made it necessary to have a library budget.

4. The Library as a Source of Publications

The next step in the development of the Heidelberg Library was the arrival of the printer and publisher Commelinus from Geneva, seeking the manuscripts of the well-known Heidelbergian Biblioteca Palatina as a basis for his publications. The library was his main source for new editions, and it was one of the tasks of librarians like Gruter to edit the library's manuscripts. This occurred not only in Heidelberg but also in Rome, where in 1586 Pope Pius V opened a new library building equipped with a printing office downstairs. This printing office was used to print texts taken from the manuscripts. Is this not a similar situation to retro-digitisation activities in libraries nowadays?

5. The Modern Research Library

A further step in library development was taken in Göttingen where the university library was founded in 1734, three years before the opening of the university. The founder was George II, King of England and Scotland, as well as Elector of Hanover. He also founded the Kings College in New York, which is now Columbia University. As a university for research, the University of Göttingen was totally different from other universities at that time, which were mainly teaching institutes. The library was built as the foundation of this research university. One of the first librarians, Heyne, established as the mission of this modern research library to acquire every book that showed the progress of knowledge. One may regard this as the starting point of modern librarianship, with a worldwide acquisition programme, classified holdings and an alphabetic index of the systematic catalogue. Students from the United States as well as from European countries took this as a model (e.g. The Royal Library in Copenhagen, and the National Library in Oslo; and in Harvard University Library you may also find among the shelves works on library re-organisation that are based on the Göttingen example).

6. Context and Content

In 1801 Goethe, who was very interested in the history of colour sciences, came to the Library. He asked for about 50 titles he could not acquire anywhere else. He then wrote in his diary: 'I did not get only what I wanted, but the librarians provided me with additional titles I did not know about before'. This was practical result of the policy of a modern research library: the Library not only provided content but context as well. So Jakob Grimm could write to the Ministry: 'The library is used as the fundament of the glory of the faculty'.

Future Prospects

7. The Research Library of the Future

Against this background we may now ask what our concept of the university library of the future should be? The dream of both librarians and of users would be that digital libraries would provide:

- everything that the user needs, from local holdings as well as from the collections of other libraries via interlibrary loan or document delivery,
- everything exactly in the form that the user needs, whether in print or electronic format,
- everything at the time the user needs it, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 360 days a year,
- everything where the user needs it, in secure networks on and outside the campus,
- more than the user could obtain with access to the deep-web, and
- cross-linking giving context as well as content.

8. The Role of the Publisher

What is the concept of the future from the point of view of publishers – or, at least, of some of them?

- Providing more access through retro-digitised material. That is a huge investment, but it also means additional income generation and perpetual copyright, since this newly-digitised material will be part of a database that has special legal protection. It means that publishers could achieve what they have been dreaming of since the 18th century: perpetual copyright.
- Cross-linking and the provision of context as well as content in a similar way to libraries
- Offering large bibliographic databases. The result may be that publishers will be able to control access and usage patterns for all published material, including freely accessible material (information about usage may help identify heavily-used material for publication in their own journals).

9. The Publisher as Librarian?

Some people think that some publishers wish to take over some of the roles of the library. But the real danger of this line of reasoning may be that the position of libraries will be weakened by:

- increasing prices for electronic material,
- extension of material within copyright capable of generating additional income,
- increased income generation by a small group of large publishers that will further negatively affect library finances and the number of subscriptions,
- decreasing library holdings which will mean a decrease in the value of libraries to researchers.

Such a development will that be the start of the ‘death of the library’ (as has been discussed in some newspapers in Germany in recent months)?

Main Areas of Activity

10. What can we do?

New alliances, new fields of activity and new services are needed in order to optimise the information infrastructure of universities:

- Universities have to succeed with additional activities
- In the publication market, we have to look to learned societies
- Local, national and international co-operation is a necessity
- Technical developments will exert a major influence
- Librarians alone cannot find the solutions.

11. Universities and Libraries

The Library:

- can be a pillar of the e-learning and e-search management and environment of the university

- may be an asset to the university but – finance is significant and so the library
- has to reduce costs, such as back-office costs
- has to co-operate, especially with computer centres.

In the publishing market-place, the library and the university:

- have to develop consortial activities where the main purpose is to reduce prices for electronic only licences
- have to co-operate with retro-digitisation projects like JSTOR, Digizeitschriften (a digitisation project in German libraries commencing with the digitisation of 60 core journals), and DIEPER (Digitised European Periodicals)
- have to strengthen the position of small publishers
- have to look for local repositories
- have to improve liaison with learned societies, the only group able to change the publisher-driven peer reviewing system.
- have to manage building personal impact factors instead of journal impact factors.

These are activities which can improve the position of the Library and the University in the market-place for research publications, where the activities of SPARC and SPARC Europe are of special value. I am very glad that –as President of LIBER - I could help to initiate the SPARC Europe activity in co-operation with the Association of Research Libraries.

The Renaissance of Libraries

12. If Libraries:-

- will take part actively in the development of the information environment, the intellectual and the social life of the University
- will operate as the infrastructure of the communication system for education and research at a local as well as at an international level

everyone will speak about the Renaissance of Libraries.

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