

Report about:
My Professional Visit to the Libraries of Frankfurt am Main,
Germany

From 6th to 18th June 2011

Visit Financed and Sponsored

By



Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) (Library & Information International)
at the Bibliothek und Information Deutschland (BID), GERMANY



By

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Acknowledgments

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I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to organize this Professional Visit Ms. Lindsey Fairhurst, Dr. Bergenthum, Ms. E. Kroll, Ms. Amann-Mehner, Ms. Barbara Krause, Ms. Regina Weiss, Ms. Monika Sommer, Ms. Dagmar Schmidt, Mr. Reinhard Altenhöner, Ms. Gärtner, Dr. A. Hausinger, Ms. Heide Beyer, and Dr. Oliver Mitesser.

As well I would particularly like to thank the staff members of Bibliothek & Information International (BID), and the staff members of each visited library who introduced and show me all about their valuable work and all other librarians who supported me, I appreciate the nice welcoming and dedication for doing this visit a significant experience in my professional improvement.

My professional visit includes libraries below:

1. Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian-Senckenberg.
2. Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian- Bibliothek Sozialwissenschaften.
3. Deutsche Nationalbibliothek Frankfurt am Main.
4. The Library of Max Planck Institute Fur Rechtsgeschichte.
5. The University of Applied Sciences – Fachhochschule Frankfurt am Main.
6. Universitatbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg (Bibliothek Recht und wirtschaft)
7. Universitatbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg- Infrastrukturzentrum (building in progress).
8. The Library of Ashurst Law Company (Frankfurt am Main Branch).
9. The Library of Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt.

My visit also included some addition events as below:

1. English Session at Universitatbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg about “The Libraries and Librarianship in Egypt”. On Tue. 14 June 2011.
2. Meeting with Mr. Reinhard Altenhöner, IT-Manager at Deutsche Nationalbibliothek Frankfurt am Main, to discuss about RFID systems in Libraries. On Wed. 15 June 2011.

Purposes of the visit:

All library visits and meeting were meant to help me learn and gain a lot of information about the applications and usages of RFID systems in libraries in Germany to use in my scientific Master Research which aims to apply these systems in the Egyptian libraries.

Monday 6 June, 2011

Visiting Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg



It was my first day of the professional visit; it started from Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg then I met the directorate Ms. Lindsey Fairhurst and after she welcomed me I met Ms. Kroll who gave me a guided tour in the library, then I learned about the special collections Dep. Africa, South of the Sahara.

About Frankfurt University:

Frankfurt University is a lively, urban, and cosmopolitan university that provides an excellent atmosphere in which to research, study, think, and create, The University was founded in 1914 through private funding. Thus, the university owes its establishment to the link – which is characteristic for the city of Frankfurt – between dynamic research, the legacy of the Enlightenment, and the conscious commitment of the citizens of Frankfurt to the fundamentals of international trade and industry.

As one of the major institutions of higher education in Germany, the university is committed to providing a wide spectrum of disciplines in research and teaching, to generating outstanding achievements, and to breaking new ground through the targeted utilization of the advantages and synergies of interdisciplinary work in research and teaching. In competition with the best national and international universities, Frankfurt University aims to fulfill its training and educational mandates through performance and open-mindedness. The university supports the practical application of knowledge based upon solid fundamental research.

Frankfurt University is located on four main campuses:

1. Campus Bockenheim
2. Campus Niederrad
3. Campus Riedberg
4. Campus Westend

About Frankfurt University Library:

The Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main is responsible for the collection period 1801-1870, the Library was founded on 1.1. 2005 after the Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt am Main fused with the Senckenbergische Bibliothek, Both libraries functioned as university libraries beforehand: the Senckenbergische Bibliothek was responsible for the natural sciences; the Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek for the remaining subjects. The histories of both libraries have developed over the centuries. The Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek originated from the Ratsbibliothek of the City of Frankfurt am Main (in

the 15th century); the Senckenbergische Bibliothek was founded in 1763 by Johann Christian Senckenberg, the Frankfurt medical doctor, after whom the library is named today.

The library is currently responsible for providing the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University with literature, the following special collections, which are financed by the DFG, are also maintained (Africa, South of the Sahara, Oceania, Biology, German studies, Comparative Literature studies, Israel and Jewish studies, Linguistics, Theatre and the Cinema.

The Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg merged as a result of the fusion between the Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt am Main and the Senckenbergische Bibliothek. As libraries of the former imperial free city they both reflect the historical inheritance from the citizen's culture of the Empire. The libraries are grateful to the cultural tradition of the City of Frankfurt, its civic donators and societies, who have contributed to the extent and variety of the historical collections. These stocks form the historical basis for the Sammlung Deutscher Drucke.

Frankfurt University Library branches:

- Bibliothek Gesellschafts- und Erziehungswissenschaften (BGE)
- Bibliothek Recht und Wirtschaft (BRuW)
- Bibliothekszentrum Geisteswissenschaften (BzG)
- Bibliothekszentrum Niederursel (BZNU)
- Kunstbibliothek- Städelbibliothek (KB)

Frankfurt University Statistics 2010

- Collections (All Libraries) 8.23 Million.
- Printed Items: 6.66 Million
- E-Journals: 7 Million.
- Printed Journals: 12.223 titles
- Circulation processes: 1.68 Million
- Staff Members (All Libraries): 233
- Training Staff: 28

Tuesday, 7 June, 2011

Bibliothek Sozialwissenschaften : RFID Practical work



In the morning of Tuesday 7 June I met Ms. Amann-Mehner during my visit to Bibliothek Sozialwissenschaften (Library of Social Sciences) which is a branch of Frankfurt University Library / Universitatbibliothek Johann Christian- Senckenberg, and then I got a practical training for using and deploying RFID systems, this training included sticking RFID-Tags of books, converting data from Barcodes to RFID-Tags, and I learnt about the most common problems during the conversion phases.

Wednesday and Thursday 8, 9 June, 2011

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek Frankfurt am Main / the German National Library

Ms. Barbara Krause was in charge of organizing my visit to DNB-Frankfurt, she organized my visit very well, and then she gave me a perfect tour in all Library departments even the Library stacks.



The German National Library is entrusted with the task of collecting, permanently archiving, bibliographically classifying and making available to the general public all German and German-language publications from 1913, foreign publications about Germany, translations of German works, and the works of German-speaking emigrants published abroad between 1933 and 1945.

The German National Library maintains co-operative relations on the national and international level. It is, for instance, the leading partner in developing and maintaining rules and standards in Germany and plays a significant role in the development of international standards.

The German National Library was preceded by several institutions: these included the Deutsche Bücherei, founded in Leipzig in 1912, and the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main, established in 1946. The Deutsches Musikarchiv was founded in Berlin and has been part of the German National Library since 1970; it has been based in Leipzig since December 2010. The archive is responsible for the processing and bibliographic indexing of sheet music and sound recordings. The reunification of Germany saw these facilities amalgamated into a single institution. In 2006 the legal brief of the library was expanded and it was given a new name: Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library).

Archiving and media use take place at both locations, the work of literature processing is shared between them, this system allows each location to offer a complete collection and provide a full range of services.

In addition, each location is allocated certain principal tasks. The historic Leipzig library houses the Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum, the Deutsches Musikarchiv, the Sammlung Exil-Literatur 1933 - 1945 and the Anne-Frank-Shoah-Bibliothek.

The Frankfurt site of the German National Library is responsible for the development of information and communication technology, including development and management of the central database; it handles the production, marketing and distribution of national bibliographic services. Frankfurt is also home to the Deutsche Exilarchiv 1933 - 1945.

At the end of 2010 the German National Library held a total of around 26.1 million media units.

About Process-supporting software for the digital German National Library (PETRUS)

During my visit to the German National Library it was my pleasure to meet Ms. Schöningh-Walter and she gave me a brief about process-supporting software for the digital German National Library called PETRUS, and below some details about this project:

At the start of 2009 the German National Library (DNB) began work on partial automation of the descriptive and subject cataloguing of new publications. The wide scope of the library's collection mandate and its target of processing the rapidly growing range of printed and electronic publications as quickly as possible for use are making it impossible for the library to meet the demand using traditional cataloguing methods alone.

The PETRUS project (process-supporting software for the digital German National Library) provides the organizational framework for addressing these challenges.

The aim is to use software solutions in the fields of data analysis, text mining and information retrieval to generate metadata for the formal and subject description of titles by processing given bibliographic information and the machine-readable text, or parts of it (tables of contents, abstracts, blurb etc.). The three-year project is concentrating primarily on monograph online publications; the intention is then to gradually extend the automatic cataloguing processes to include other media.

An important aspect lies in the re-use of existing metadata. Cataloguing data will be transferred if parallel or similar editions are already held. Parallel editions are e.g. online and print versions of the same work. A check against the bibliographic database is therefore triggered at the beginning of the cataloguing process.

Title links to the authority files (Name Authority File, Corporate Body Authority File, Subject Headings Authority File) are also to be generated automatically where possible. Starting with the authors of a publication, a check is made to see if the names have already been recorded. The system either creates a link to an existing entry or generates a new data record in the authority file. Manual processing by library staff is triggered if an author's name is linked to several titles.

For thematic classification the DNB uses a scheme based on Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), consisting of roughly one hundred subject classes, the aim is to use this as the basis for automatic classification; intelligent machine learning techniques will initially be "trained" using publications which have already been catalogued.

The texts will be pre-analyzed by language processing components to identify the language of the text, break it down into words, carry out a linguistic analysis and extract the relevant terms; a limited collection of online publications and a rapidly growing number of digitized tables of contents of printed monographs are available for the training process.

A further target is to achieve computer-aided subject cataloguing, the ultimate aim is to obtain free indexing and also subject headings using the controlled vocabulary of the authority files. Automatic text analysis and resolution of ambiguity are based on linguistic and semantic concepts; these will result in the extraction of salient terms being issued as keywords. The preferred subject headings, geographic and ethnographic terms, names etc. will be identified following comparison with the authority files. Experiments will be carried out to discover the quality level which can be obtained using the automatic methods and tools.

Finally, quality-assured cataloguing processes will be developed to run automatically where possible.

PETRUS Project duration is 2009-2011.

- Meeting with Mr. Reinhard Altenhöner (IT-Manager at DNB, Frankfurt am Main) to discuss about RFID system in Libraries

It was my pleasure to meet Mr. Reinhard Altenhöner, IT Manager at The German National Library to discuss about RFID systems in Libraries; it was really impressive and useful discussion for me, because Mr. Altenhöner has a lot of experience with RFID and technical systems in libraries, it was interesting meeting for me because I'm studying RFID systems in my Master Research and on other hand I'm planning to establish a consortium for the Egyptian Libraries to implement RFID system together to reduce the costs, he gave me very valuable advice, and showed me the basic steps how to start to apply RFID systems in all the Egyptian Libraries.



In addition me and Mr. Altenhöner and I talked about IFLA, generally about the market scene and about scenarios for implementing RFID technology, and how to go about making progress with my plan and building up a user group in Egypt to implement RFID technology together, also Mr. Altenhöner recommended to me names of partners in Germany/Europe (public libraries) who have a lot of experience with RFID systems in libraries.

Friday 10 June, 2011

The Library of the Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte



It was my pleasure to meet Ms. Monika Sommer, who she gave me a brief tour in the Max Planck Institute then she showed me the Library departments, with more focus on RFID implementation.

The Library already tagged all library collections with RFID to be ready for the move to the new library, I did a practical trial to print an RFID –label including barcode on a special RFID printer.

I learned about the problems that they face during the implementation phases, and this was important for my Master Studies, which relates to the safe and implementation of RFID in Libraries.

The Library of the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History is one of the world's leading legal history libraries with a treasure trove of source material and secondary literature. Its collections also include a wealth of non-legal literature in the fields of philosophy, theology, and historiography, political, economic, social and intellectual history.

The Library possesses some 320,000 volumes, of which half or more form part of our historic book collections. The library collection grows annually by approx. 10.000 volumes. In addition, there are some special collections, especially legal dissertations, microfilm copies of medieval manuscripts and legacy archives gathered by legal experts. The print collections, microfilms and microfiches are fully documented in the electronic catalogue (Web-OPAC), licensed electronic journals are filed in the Electronic Journals Library, and the library also offers access to other online resources such as databases and electronic text corpora.

The library is available to all those engaged in academic work. As a reference library only, no books are lent out; various digitization projects have been undertaken with the goal of converting a part of the library's inventories into electronic form. This material, with added searchable metadata, is available free of charge on the Internet.

Tuesday 14 June, 2011

English Session about the Librarianship and Libraries in Egypt at the Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main

It was my pleasure to get an invitation from Ms. Lindsey Fairhurst (Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg- Direktion) to give a brief English Session at her Library about Libraries and Librarianship in Egypt, this Session gives me the chance to reflect the current situation of the Egyptian Libraries and Librarians in my country, on other hand the reaction of the audience was excellent and amazing, and it was a perfect method to exchange experience and knowledge between me as a Egyptian Librarian and the German colleagues.



Wednesday 15 June, 2011
Fachhochschule Frankfurt am Main



It was another useful training day about RFID systems in The Library of The University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt; it was my pleasure to meet Ms. Dagmar Schmidt the Director of the library, she gave me a brief tour in the library departments.

The broad range of media available at the Fachhochschule Frankfurt University Library reflects the complexity of the multifaceted, Bachelor, Master and further education study programs offered by the university.

The comprehensive literature and media collection for students and teaching staff of the university serves the four faculties (Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geomatics; Computer Science and Engineering; Business and Law; Health and Social Work) as well as the further education study programs and the research institutes.

The stocks include about 240.000 volumes and more than 19.000 e-books, databases and e-journals, the annual volume of media acquisition lies between 4,000 and 8,000 items, the annual elimination rate lies between 50% and 100% of the year's total media acquisition.

Special Collections:

- **Architecture and Technology Historical Collection:** This special collection is of interest, for example, for those aspects of teaching and studies related to the renovation or reconstruction of historical buildings.
- **Historical Collection Social Work and Care:** This is a collection of nationwide interest for social work or health care specialists and researchers in the history of those fields, containing for large parts historical material from the 19th and early 20th century.

Thursday 16 June, 2011
First visit: BibliothekRecht und Wirtschaftswissenschaft Frankfurt am Main



In this morning I met Ms. Gartner, The Director of The Library of Law and Economics which also belongs to Frankfurt University Library (Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg) she also gave me a brief tour in the library to see and get to know about Library departments and the work procedures.

RFID Training at the Library of Law and Economics:

In addition Ms. Gartner focused on using RFID system in different areas such as: how we can do a Self circulation using units supporting with RFID, I also had an intensive training about how to use DLA (Digital Library Assistant) this tool also based on RFID technology, and the librarian can use it in Inventory process, shelve management, find misplaced items on shelves and other usages, I got the chance to use this tool and practiced a lot.



Thursday 16 June, 2011

Second visit: Visiting the library at Campus Riedberg and Visiting the building in progress

It was my pleasure to meet Dr. Hausinger and I'm grateful to her because she picked me up from Universitatbibliothek Johann Christian-Senckenberg to take me to the Library at Campus Riedberg with her car.

At the beginning of the visit Dr. Hausinger gave me a brief tour around the campus and then we went to visit the library building which is in progress, she showed me the building from outside and inside, then we moved to the current library and she gave me a brief tour in her library and she told me about the library departments, collections, and RFID system in the Library.

Friday 17 June, 2011

First visit: Visiting the Library of Ashurst – Law Company

It was very useful and important to me to visit a specialized Library and learn about using and applying RFID there, because it will help me to get a comprehensive view about using RFID systems in different kind of libraries.

Ashurst is a law firm specialized in Law with a team of over 200 partners in 12 countries, it provides advice of the highest quality to organizations around the world.

Ashurst Frankfurt opened in November 1997 and strengthens the firm's position as one of the leading law firms in Europe focusing on corporate and international finance. The German practice comprises around 70 partners, associates, tax consultants and solicitors. Peter Junghänel is the managing partner of the offices in Frankfurt and Munich.

The lawyers of the Frankfurt office advice on: Corporate, International finance, Real estate, Commercial, Tax.

Visiting Ashurst Library in Frankfurt:



It was my pleasure to meet Ms. Heide Beyer, Responsible for Library of Ashurst in Frankfurt, she gave me a brief tour in the Library and its departments, also she showed me about how they are using RFID system in the library to borrow or reserve items for Lawyers, Ms. Beyer told me about the Library such:
Staff: 4 Librarians in the Library.
Collections: 10.000-12.000 items.
Journal Subscription: 80 Titles.
On-line Journals: 400 Titles.

Ashurst Library in Frankfurt started to implement RFID systems for its collections on 2007, it gives lawyers access to borrow and exchange books inside the firm with each other, using RFID systems make a kind of easy and flexibility of library work procedures in Ashurst.

Friday 17 June, 2011

Second visit: Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt



My last visit was to The University and State Library in Darmstadt, and I was pleased to meet Dr. Oliver Mitesser in the Library, after meeting Dr. Mitesser invited me to have a Barbecue with The Library's IT-Team, and after finishing the lunch we started our tour in the Library departments, beginning from the different library departments, stacks ...etc., and also I have got a comprehensive view about RFID applications in the library.

- The University and State Library (ULB) in downtown Darmstadt, the University and State Library of Darmstadt is the central library of the University of Technology in Darmstadt. Its Branch Library is situated on the TU Campus Lichtwiese. Moreover, it is the academic universal library for the city of Darmstadt and for southern Hessen, including all training and research facilities, public authorities, cultural institutes and private businesses. As state library it holds the right to storage of depository copies for southern Hessen and the region of Giessen.
- The Branch Library Lichtwiese assumes the functions of a general library for the Lichtwiese Campus and it is also the specialized library for the departments of architecture and civil engineering. Furthermore, it is developing a media library for architecture, town planning, art history and classical archaeology for the Department of Architecture.
- The ULB has over two million books, periodicals, journals, magazines, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, the main focus is on books and journals related to science and engineering, which reflects the literature needs of the university community. There is, however, also a large collection of works related to the humanities and social sciences, since the ULB is also a general library.



RFID system in Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt:

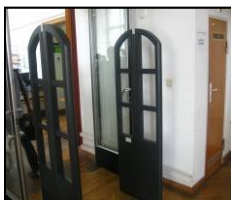
The Library of Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt apply RFID system to do many functions in the library such as: Self circulations services, inventory and theft detection process.

- **Self circulation units:**

During my visit to the in the Library of Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt I saw Self circulation units based on RFID systems, these units give the library users the possibility to borrow books by themselves without library assistance using library card.



- **Security gates:**



The library of Universitäts-und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt protected the collections by RFID systems using these security gates, these gates set on an alarm if library patrons trying to go out of the library without finishing the lending procedures, because these gates contains an antenna which communicate with the RFID tags on library collections.

Conclusions

1. Getting a comprehensive view about the German Libraries work procedures.
2. Visiting various libraries such: University and specialist libraries.
3. Learn about RFID systems in some Libraries in Frankfurt to use as a field data in my Master Research.
4. Getting practical training about using and implementing RFID system in many Libraries.
5. Exchanging ideas and experiences with German Librarians about Librarianship and Libraries in Egypt.
6. Getting many modern ideas to apply in the Egyptian libraries such as: Stock managing etc.
7. Getting useful advice by meeting professionals in information technology in libraries such Mr. Altenhöner (IT-Manager at DNB, Frankfurt am Main) about RFID systems in Libraries.
8. Learned about the most common problems during the implementations of RFID systems in libraries and how to solve it.
9. Know about the different kinds of RFID systems in libraries.

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