

Report on participation in the Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries Conference, September 26-28, 2011, Berlin.

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Thanks to generous assistance from BI-International, I was able to attend my first international library conference, the Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries, in Berlin (September 26-28, 2011). This was a pivotal experience for me as a Library and Information Science student at the beginning of my career.

At the conference, I attended a variety of lectures that opened my eyes to the most important issues in LIS today. Lectures on topics such as the role of mobile devices in a library environment, the various uses of digital libraries as educational resources, and a comparative study of copyright practices in the United States and Europe, help me see both the practical and theoretical issues librarians today face throughout the world.

Most importantly for my own scholarly development, attending the conference allowed me to present my original research to an international audience. I presented a poster, "Encoding Diachrony: Digital Editions of Serbian 18th-century Texts," a project with Toma Tasovac (Belgrade Center for Digital Humanities). Presenting the poster at the TPDL gave me a chance to engage with scholars from a variety of countries and disciplines, all of whom gave me new insights and thoughts regarding the direction of this project.

As a young LIS scholar, attending the TPDL conference allowed me to understand the library profession on an international scale. I made important contacts with librarians and scholars from far away - Russia, Serbia, Germany, Australia, Norway - and as close as New Jersey. I plan to cultivate these contacts in order to enhance my own research and to work toward future collaboration.

I look forward to sharing my experience at TPDL with my colleagues at the Rutgers University School of Information and Communication, where I am the president of an Academic Libraries Student Society. Once again, I thank the BI-International for their generous assistance to librarians throughout the world; I would not have been able to attend this important conference without its support.