

Report

Library organization in academic libraries - Best-practice examples – Bibliotheksorganisation in wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken - Best-practice-Beispiele

Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden (8. 5. 2011. – 13. 5.2011.)

With generous help from Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID), Goethe Institute Belgrade, Centre for Scientific Information of the National library of Serbia, and my Faculty, I was one of the nine librarians – Andrijana Stojanović (Nikola Tesla University Library of Niš), Milica Ševkušić (Library of the Institute of Technical Sciences of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade), Jelena Jaćimović (Library of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Belgrade), Tatjana Timotijević and Dobrila Begenišić (National Library of Serbia, Belgrade), Radivoj Doderović and Novka Šokica-Šuvaković (Library of Matica Srpska, Novi Sad) – from Serbia who had the opportunity to visit libraries in Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden between 8 May and 13 May 2011.

During our visit named **Library organisation in academic libraries – Best practise examples** we saw the following libraries:

1. German Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Haus Unter den Linden;
2. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Haus Potsdamer Straße;
3. Wissenschaftszentrum –WZB;
4. Deutsche Nationalbibliothek Leipzig;
5. German Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden (SLUB);
6. Bibliothek des Deutschen Bundestags;
7. German Philologische Bibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin;
8. Universitätsbibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin;
9. Universitätsbibliothek der Humboldt-Universität, Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm -Zentrums
10. Universitätsbibliothek der Humboldt-Universität – Philologische Bibliothek.

We also visited the Kooperativer Bibliotheksverbund Berlin-Brandenburg – (KOBV).

All of the visited libraries have something in common and they are different at the same time. We had a dense schedule and the impressions are still waiting to get their final shape. Therefore, I have chosen not to give a descriptive summary of the visited libraries. I will rather

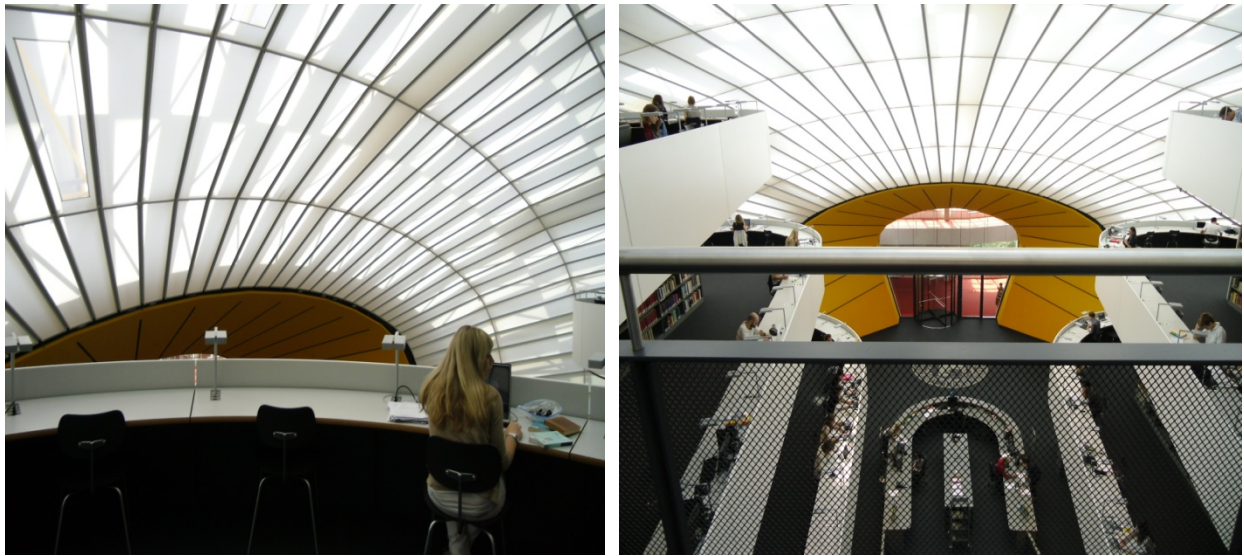
highlight some impressions about one library that is most relevant for my librarian experience, and that is the Philological Library at the Free University of Berlin.

First, I feel obliged to explain my choice. I work as a librarian at the Central Library on the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. The Faculty has a central library, with a reading room, whereas each department (18 of them) has their own seminar library. For more detailed information, please check http://www.ff.uns.ac.rs/english/faculty/library_publications.html. In terms of library type, user profiles and style of work my library functions as a university library but on a smaller scale and in a more limited space. The Faculty of Philosophy has the oldest and the largest library within the University of Novi Sad. It was founded in 1954 and its current staff includes 26 librarians. It is the second largest scientific library in Vojvodina in the field of humanities, with more than 290,000 books and 260,000 periodicals available through both the printed and electronic catalogues.

These are the reasons why I find the Philological Library at the Free University of Berlin the most relevant for my work. The other motive behind my choice is that I am impressed with its architecture. This library is set in the centre of the complex of university departments in humanities and social sciences. Our host was Mr Dr. Klaus Ulrich Werner, Head of the Library. In his presentation of the library, he first referred to its architecture, designed by Lord Norman Foster. The new building was opened in 2005. Its exterior features modern forms and the used materials (glass and recycled aluminium) contribute to its high energetic efficiency. For example, there is no need for air conditioners and natural ventilation is ensured by openable aluminium wings in the lower section of the building.



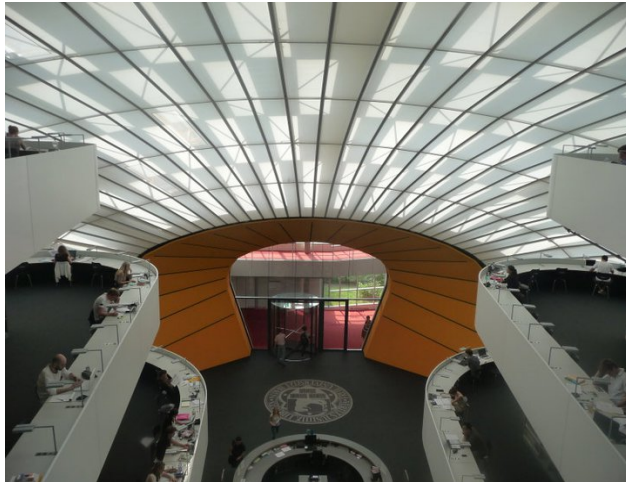
Another environment-friendly feature of the building is that it provides maximum natural light owing to the use of glass and white canvas, thereby contributing to the saving of electricity.



The interior is designed in such a way as to provide plenty of light and vast areas of open space. Workplaces are lined along the edges of the platforms, where the light is stronger, whereas bookshelves are placed in the platforms' central areas.



The most imposing section of the library is definitely the entrance hall, where users can leave their stuff and obtain valuable information on the spacious information desk with experienced librarians.



The librarians' offices are located in the old buildings surrounding the library, which are connected with a new building by a "tunnel". Librarians on the information desk change every two hours, and this was the first library at the Free University open on weekends. The weekend staff includes two students and a security guard. That is a good solution, for two reasons: firstly, the access to the entire library holdings is free and they can be used only in the library; secondly, the library is a popular destination, particularly during final exams period, and they sometimes have to resort to limiting access to students and university staff from relevant departments. We have the same problem in our library.

Another good solution is that special shelves are allocated to some professors, where they can leave reading materials and handouts for students relevant to their course. That practise is common in most academic libraries and could be implemented in our library without any cost or spatial requirements.

The Philological Library's annual acquisition rate of books by far exceeds ours. However, we could implement their model of dealing with books that are given as a present to the library. According to commonly accepted acquisition policies, an academic library can receive only books and other publications relevant for a specific field of research and gifts inevitably raise the issue of superfluous books. Mr Dr. Klaus Ulrich Werner explained that in accordance with the library's agreement with donors superfluous books are sold at "book fairs", which provides the library with additional funds.

Once again, I would like to thank BID, as well as to Ms Bettina Radner, the Head of the Library of the Goethe Institute in Belgrade, and Ms Jana Mayer-Kristić, translator, for their

generous help and support, as well as to our colleagues in German libraries who readily and generously provided answers to our numerous questions. This was a unique and useful trip and I am glad that I will have the opportunity to present my observation to the colleagues in my library.

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