

Welcoming address

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WELCOMING ADDRESS

Klijs, Kees Th.J.

President of the NVB, the Dutch Library Association

Mr. Chairman, President of IATUL

Prof. Popma, Rector of the University

Dear and distinguished colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to our country on behalf of the Dutch Library Association. We are gathered here on the nice campus of the University of Twente and when, after some refreshing rain the sun will break through in the coming days, you will see how beautiful this region is.

Librarianship is now a rapidly changing profession. The enormous amount of information we are managing is growing at an ever increasing rate. But, that is not all. The media by which information is distributed are changing. Information and communication technology have profound effects on the way information is disseminated, received, extracted and used.

What will be our role in this rapidly changing environment? What will be the way in which we perform our fundamental tasks of selecting and making accessible relevant information?

In modern society nobody is complaining about the lack of information in general: on the contrary, many complaints are heard about the ever growing flood of information.

As you know, in this country we have had a continuous battle against floods of water during centuries. Technology has helped us a lot in solving these problems: we have dikes, we have canals, we have polders, but above all we have sophisticated control systems.

Floods of information, like floods of water, need a sophisticated system of canals and control systems. Librarians and other information professionals must channel information in such a way that the consumers of it are not drowned, but get refreshing portions of it at will.

We are the intermediaries in the process of providing the most valuable and the most relevant information. To achieve this we must constantly review our strategies.

For librarians working in technological universities there is a special need for fast adaptation. Here the most recent information is of utmost importance. This information is the first to be distributed by new channels and new media.

On the other hand, librarians working in technological universities have the advantage of having the know-how of new information technology at hand.

That is why this conference can be of great importance to the whole of the library profession. Those who are more affected by the changes and those who are near the technological solutions are here to discuss an efficient and effective use of the resources. IATUL can be a forerunner in our profession.

I hope and wish that this conference will contribute significantly to the solution of the problems we are confronted with and in the development of our profession.

I am glad to see that a special session of this conference is devoted to human capital. Of all the resources we will be talking about, this remains the most

interesting.

The Dutch Library Association congratulates IATUL on its fortieth anniversary. We consider it a privilege to have your jubilee conference in our country. You must have found some good reasons for this, although I suppose that the continuous efforts of our chairman, might have made you curious to see his home base.

Once more I wish you all a very pleasant stay in our country.

May this conference generate ideas for an exciting future for our profession and for you.