The publications of IATUL from 1955 to 1965

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IATUL
Preliminary remarks

The early history and beginnings of IATUL have almost been forgotten, as well as many of the activities of its forefathers. While remembering the 40th anniversary of IATUL in May 1995 it is worthwhile recalling some facts about the publications from 1955 to 1965. My primary sources of information for this short paper are my relationships with IATUL and my personal documents of early publications. We find a lot of very interesting information about the first steps of an international communication between the technical university libraries. We can look up these communications in the publications of IATUL - all of them as "grey literature" available in a small number of libraries. I am unable to find one library with a whole set of IATUL publications from 1955 to 1965.

"... all that a University ... can do for us, is ... teach us to read ... The true University of these days is a collection of Books".

These words of Carlyle from 1841 were the beginning of official publications of IATUL in the year 1955. In 1955 Paul Scherrer, Director of the Bibliothek der Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule Zürich, wrote an article which described the history of technical university libraries. This library exemplifies the thorny history of a library type which was, for a long time, neglected by the stream of development of the ancient university libraries. The importance of the technical academic institutes and technical/technological Universities increased in times of rapid scientific and technological development. This was accompanied by a very considerable increase in the volume of technical scientific literature. Libraries belonging to technological universities were lacking in acceptance and did not play a role in the international
exchange of experience. After intensive preparations within IFLA, a circular letter was formulated in April 1951. This was addressed to 12 technical university libraries round the world. Subsequently IATUL was founded at the Düsseldorf meeting of the Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare in May 1955. The early history is recorded. According to its publications from 1955 to 1965 a very interesting development is unfolded.

Reprints and Publications

It started with "grey literature", if we understand by that publications outside of the bookshop, not bibliographically recorded and to a large extent unknown. At the beginning there were neither a bulletin nor a small specialist journal, but mainly reprints available; 31 contributions were published in a series "Reprints and Publications" from 1956 (Number 1) to 1967 (Number 25). (Appendix 1). In these reprints 14 special essays were published which can only be traced here, 17 were reprinted from published journals: it was an attempt to inform a small number of members about the latest developments in technical libraries around the world. In the beginning there were 34 libraries in 14 countries and by 1966 the number had already increased to 93 libraries in 30 countries. (Appendix 2).

For example: "Linking libraries by TV" from L.L. Ardem (Reprints 21) 1963; "Die Empfehlungen des Wissenschaftsrates für die Bibliotheken Technischer Hochschulen" from P. Kaegbein (Reprints 22) 1966; "Audio-visual methods in education holdings of the Central Library, Technical University of Budapest" from M. Spányi and K. Héberger (Reprints 23) 1966.

Fortunately from the beginning the Board paid great attention to informing the members about its Conferences and Seminars. So we are happy to have the essential data and facts so that we can reconstruct the results of the meetings. (Appendix 3) - Already it's a heavy task to collect the results.
The meetings show, in particular, the changes of the librarian’s work from the traditionally manual to the electronic information processing and dissemination. The technological development was much earlier than in the large universal libraries. For example: 1956 - President Hemlin referred to the close connection of the two Swedish technological university libraries with industry. Koschlig/Stuttgart favoured the microfilm as an information resource in libraries and especially for dissertations, Scherre/Zürich gave his views on patent documents in technological university libraries.

1958 - Van der Wolk/Delft wrote about the use of microfilms and the telex machine in the libraries of the Netherlands.

1960 - President Hemlin spoke about the Farmington-Plan for the Nordic technical libraries. And there were several short reports about new library buildings in Braunschweig, Karlsruhe, Hannover and Stuttgart.

1961 - we find a topic addressing the problem of national and international cooperation. President Hemlin started the series of reports by speaking on the present tasks of co-ordination in acquisition. Another important issue in the debates was introduced by van der Wolk/Delft who dealt with "pools of less used materials", the lecture of Smit/Delft offered a useful survey of co-ordination in collecting data on translation. Another topic was the professional training of technical librarians.

Newsletter

The first true bulletins were the Newsletters (1.1963 - 11.1965) with about 20 more extensive contributions and innumerable brief reports about the activities of the members. It was only eight years after the foundation of IATUL that the members could receive regularly information about their own organization. There is an index, by C.M. Lincoln, from 1969; this is a big asset because it informs about the history of IATUL and other organizations (it also lists the contents of the first three volumes of the IATUL Proceedings from 1966 to 1968). It describes in detail the course and
evaluation of Board Meetings and Conferences, new members are named, there is a section "News from members: activities and publications" and "Bibliographical news", the relations with IFLA are mentioned and also hidden there is a long contribution about "On the track of great names: wanderings through the world of manuscript collectors" by M. Koschlig. These suitable "News" lead, without any interruption, to the journal IATUL Proceedings.

**Actes du Conseil de la FIAB**

Those who want to gain information about the early history and the first years of IATUL and do not have access to the publications cited can look up the names of the Board members in the Actes of IFLA, starting with 1953. There are the resolutions and programs, Statutes and Constitution, and Board Activities and - often in an appendix - the Annual Reports.

**References**

Appendix 1

In an appendix I refer to these points
1. Reprints and Publications 1956-1967
2. Full Members 1955-1966
3. Meetings 1956-1970

Reprints and publications


Appendix 2

Full members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Libraries in</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>1957</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. this is unclear; obvious this is the number of the participants in Fourth Conference of IATUL April 11-14 1961 Delft
Appendix 3

1956 1. Jahresversammlung
1. und 2. Sept. 1956
München
Technische Hochschulbibliothek

1958 2. Tagung
27.-31. Mai 1958
Fulda
Bibliothekartag

1960 (3.) Jahrestagung
7.-11. Juni 1960
Trier
Bibliothekartag

1961 Fourth Conference
April 11-14 1961
Delft
Technical University Library

1963 First Meeting Working Group
May 25, 26 1963
Delft
Technical University Library
1964  (Second) Meeting Working Group International Working Conference
January 7, 8 1964 September 21-24 1964
Delft Stuttgart
Technical University Library Bibliothek der Technischen Hochschule

1965  First IATUL Study Tour and General Meeting
September, October 1965
USA
Study Tour Sept. 27-Oct. 3 1965
General Conference Oct. 4-15 1965

1966  First IATUL Seminar
September 1-9 1966
Delft
Technical University Library

1967  Third Triennial Working Party Second IATUL Seminar
April 9-16 1967 September 4-9 1967
Haifa Delft
Technion Library Technical University Library

1968  Third IATUL Seminar
September 2-7 1968
Delft
Technical University Library

1969  Fourth IATUL Seminar
September 1-6 1969
Delft
Technical University Library
1970 Fourth Triennial Conference
March 31-April 3 1970
Loughborough
University of Technology Library