

Technological University Libraries and Industry in The German Democratic Republic

Dieter Schmidmaier
Scientific Information Centre

Dieter Schmidmaier, "Technological University Libraries and Industry in The German Democratic Republic." *Proceedings of the IATUL Conferences*. Paper 11.

<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/iatul/1987/papers/11>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Technological University Libraries and Industry in The German Democratic Republic

DIETER SCHMIDMAIER

Mining Academy Scientific Information Centre DDR - 9200 Freiberg PSF 47

1. Introduction

The following remarks are based on the experience of the technological university libraries of the GDR. In this country, the relations between the libraries of technological universities, of institutes of the Academy of Sciences and factory libraries are developed on the basis of legal regulations. During the last decade, four forms of cooperative library work have become dominant, and three of these are relevant to our discussion. The fourth form involving public libraries is discussed elsewhere.

2. Technological university libraries as central special libraries and management of special library networks

Special library networks are cooperative associations of libraries with different conditions of subordination but with a nearly similar profile. Preconditions of the establishment and effectiveness of such networks consist in efficient special libraries as well as in the willingness to cooperate. The management of the network rests with the most efficient library.

The formation of central special libraries and special library networks is part of the planned development of the library system in the GDR. The main intention is to enable the libraries belonging to these networks to fulfil the growing tasks in the socialist society by means of rational division of labour and cooperation, and thus the better use of available resources. The work of individual libraries is purposefully complemented by cooperation with others. By combining libraries in a network, the potential of a library is multiplied. The collaboration that the libraries have been striving for over decades is raised to a higher level.

Since the 1970s the formation of special networks has achieved a good tradition in the fields of military affairs, agriculture, education, medicine and economics as well as in the fundamental sciences such as mathematics and physics. Because of the importance of science and technology for the coming millennium, the efforts to combine the capacities in the technical disciplines have been strengthened recently. In 1983, efficient university libraries of

mechanical engineering, electrical engineering/electronics, and chemistry, as well as of mining and metallurgy received the status of a "Central Special Library of the GDR" and were put in charge of the formation of the respective special library networks.

In this paper, only the last four special library networks are to be dealt with. Such a network combines university libraries (10%), libraries of research institutes, e.g. of the Academy of Sciences (15-20%), libraries of technical colleges (5-10%), factory libraries (60%), libraries of central institutions (5-10%). The distribution of the holdings is quite different: university libraries (30-40%), libraries of research institutes (15-20%), libraries of technical colleges (5-20%), factory libraries (20-30%), libraries of central institutions (5%). The percentage of the sources of information is characterized by the fact that the amount of "grey literature" is growing and that of books and journals is falling. These few figures illustrate the necessity for the close cooperation of libraries with a similar scientific profile.

The relations between the technological university libraries and the libraries in industry are the focus of attention. Especially these partners expect: mutual assistance and support, relief, advice and guidance, but also clear instructions, preferred service, material and technical stocking up and modern equipment. These measures should cover acquisition, cataloguing, inter-library loan, reprography and development of technical devices. To this end, several obstacles have to be cleared away, such as conservative views, bad experience and the fear that the library may not be up to the additional tasks.

Therefore, the formation and development of networks is not only a question of librarianship, but to a larger degree a question of ideology. Experience shows that at the beginning small practical steps are effective. A clear conception has to be the starting point involving development, function and task formulation and the giving of detailed regulations to management and structure.

Basic problems and principles of cooperation are legally fixed by cooperation contracts. These contain, the establishment of centres giving a review of the entire stock of the respective scientific discipline, coordinated acquisition according to the demand and the meeting of the informational needs of the partners, coordination of bookstock cataloguing by means of a central (union) catalogue, effective use and fast literature supply by means of network loan and finally, methodical instructions and training of the staff.

The technological university libraries have essentially extended their task formulation through these activities.

(First results of special library networks in the GDR have been published.)¹

3. Technological university libraries in cooperation with libraries of the Academy of Sciences and industry

The closer combination of science and production requires the cooperation of the respective libraries and information offices in all fields. Cooperation contracts and work agreements between universities, the Academy, and library co-

operatives, all serve to achieve the goal. Here a tradition becomes visible on a higher level which is an inherent part of library policy in the GDR, namely the integration of library work into complex management and planning of social processes, and into leadership function performed by the state. Elements of the contract are as follows:

Utilisation and editing of research results of the university (diploma papers, theses, research and development bulletins, patents) for industry (ready for computer processing).

Use of the computer memory resources of the partner and possibility of cost free supply of information in the form of computer retrieval and Selective Dissemination of Information.

Acquisition, cataloguing and provision of "grey literature" and its immediate delivery to the libraries of the partners.

Introduction of the users of libraries and information offices in industry to the possibilities of automated information retrieval by the staff of the university library.

Regulations concerning direct access to sources of information by means of rational inter-library loan forms, telex, usage of xerox facilities and the connection of all partners to computer networks.

(Results have not been published yet).

4. Technological university libraries as polytechnic patent libraries

It is the major task of polytechnical patent libraries to collect, catalogue and provide patent literature for the purposes of the university and the enterprises of the area. Patent information is of fundamental importance for the effectiveness of research and development. Patents characterize the international standard of knowledge in all fields of science and technology, they are the only source of information giving exclusively the latest scientific and technological findings. In view of the growing importance of patent literature it was decided to develop decentralized offices to augment the national registration office (Amt für Erfindungs- und Patentwesen der DDR in Berlin)² in the GDR. Thus polytechnic patent libraries were established at the technological universities of Dresden and Karl-Marx-Stadt, also.

Besides the scientists and students of the universities, the industrial enterprises of the area benefit from these institutions (over 75% of the entire use). The number of users is steadily growing and the business hours have to be extended. User education for groups of up to 20 persons renders an essential contribution to publicise the information service of the patent libraries in the area. Exhibitions enable the patent library to propagate their information service.

(First experience has been gained in testing these new methods.)³

5. Conclusion

Libraries of technological universities and libraries in industry have manifold connections in the GDR. The legal foundations of these relations were

established in the nineteen seventies and eighties. First stable forms of cooperation have emerged on the basis of cooperative agreements, but the majority are dynamic and flexible and the outline of the coming millennium becomes visible. To this end, reserves can clearly be seen leading to new results in joint work.

An indispensable prerequisite of any future orientated work in technological university libraries is the timely preparation of the librarians. For this reason, the requirements for training and further education have to be laid down now because the graduates of librarianship in the eighties and nineties will be the staff and directors of libraries beyond the year 2000. These requirements should involve the introduction of new scientific disciplines. In particular the techniques of communication and information in the future as well as a shift of emphasis within the traditional fields to the teaching of psychological, sociological, educational and ethical knowledge, and to the consideration of an in-depth study of information science.

The author

Dieter Schmidmaier is second Vice-President of IATUL, and Secretary of a Standing Committee in a Section of IFLA, Member of the presidium of the Library Association in GDR and Director of the Scientific Information Centre at the Mining Academy in Freiberg, GDR. In 1969 he graduated D. Phil. in Science History and in 1970 he was awarded *Facultas Docendi* in the History of Science. He is a lecturer in the education and continued professional training in Library Science, mainly in user education. He has over 150 publications in the field of Library and Information Science.

References

1. HOCHSMANN, D. *Bildung und Aufbau eines fachlichen Bibliotheksnetzes: Grundlagen und Arbeitsmaterialien*. Berlin, Methodisches Zentrum, 1985. 32p.
SCHMIDMAIER, D. *Fachliche Bibliotheksnetze für die Natur- und Technikwissenschaften auf dem Weg in die 90er Jahre*. *Zentralbl. Bibl. Wesen* 100(5) 1986: pp. 200-208.
KITTEL, P. *Die Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in ihrer Zusammenarbeit mit fachlichen Bibliotheksnetzen und zentralen Fachbibliotheken*. *Zentralbl. Bibl. Wesen* 100(9) 1986: pp. 377-379, 382-384.
FRUHAUF, W. *Die multidisziplinären Bibliotheken der Pädagogischen Hochschulen als Partizipanten der fachlichen Bibliotheksnetze*. *Zentralbl. Bibl. Wesen* 100(8) 1986: pp. 329-332.
2. At present the Office has a stock of 12 million patents from 20 countries and a great deal of abstract catalogues, enquiry and retrieval facilities.
3. SCHMIDMAIER, D. *Die "Schutzrechtsverordnung" vom 31. 1. 1980 und die Bibliotheksarbeit*. *Zentralbl. Bibl. Wesen* 94(10) 1980: pp. 474-476.
ZIMMERMANN, P. *Erfahrungen, Ergebnisse und Erfordernisse der Polytechnischen Patentbibliothek der Technischen Hochschule Karl-Marx-Stadt*. *Zentralbl. Bibl. Wesen* 100(7) 1986: pp. 299-302.