

## The Library of the Technical University of Crete

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## The Library of the Technical University of Crete

Two crucial strategic results that the library will achieve in the next three years in relation to the themes of the conference and some ideas for discussion.

Logistics/ e archiving: Durable, retrievable storage and transportation of information: who's in charge?

The first strategic objective is the Digitization of Grey Literature and the research production of the academics of the University. We are also interested in technical reports of other Institutions to be included in. We intend to include them in the database of the Greek Consortium of Academic Libraries (HEAL-LINK).

We have already collected the greatest part of both the research production of our academics and students and the technical reports in print and electronic form and what is left to be done is the cataloguing, the classification, the connection of the electronic location to our OPAC and their organization in a full text and contents retrieval system. We regard that it is useful for the users to be able to locate every kind of material through our OPAC. The access to the database will be consistent to the copyright laws and the appropriate technological measures will be taken to avoid inappropriate use.

As digital libraries are not only collections but mainly services, the cost estimation is the fundamental operation along with the financing of a library's services. The cost concerns the financing of the infrastructure and the methodology of the organization of a digital library. The Technical University of Crete pays these costs by money given from the public finance. However, digital libraries in general, are financed according to the level of use and the standard of the services provided. This practically means that users, especially remote ones, pay upon use. This is the way that libraries manage to regain some of their expenditures. And this is a matter of library's management.

In Greece, where the Education and Knowledge provision is a tradition from ancient years and the free offer of Education is one of the vested interests of the society, clearly declared in the Greek Constitution, there is a prejudice about the payment upon service, especially when it comes to undergraduate studies. So, there is a clear fear that services by payment is quite difficult to be established in undergraduate education but not in research.

Education: Libraries in a learning society.

The second strategic objective is the organization of electronic classrooms and electronic shelves. This action includes not only the digitization of the instructive material, teaching documents, data, bibliographies, directories, exercises, laboratory exercises etc, but also the access to e-books, databases, web pages, multimedia, museum and gallery exhibits, feedback methodology, which are possible to be produced electronically.

Except for the above, audiovisual material such as graphics and text, moving images, video films and audio material will be digitized after the permission of the producers and/ or providers. The pilot project includes 5 courses. The material will be processed as the library material is, that is cataloguing, classification and full text retrieval. This is because we find useful for users to be able to locate every kind of material through OPAC.

As learning aims rather to the problem solving than to the acquisition of the knowledge and as the knowledge becomes outdated quickly, it is not possible for libraries to predict all user needs, so libraries are obliged to replace the Just in Case model with the Just in Time. This practically means that libraries must gradually replace the acquisition procedure with the access to multiple databases in order to manage to satisfy the specialized interests of every user. This idea is strengthened by two realities: the information usage in courses of remote learning is more dynamical than of that in classrooms, so tutors and students, along with librarians, have to respond promptly to the requests. Another reality is that a significant part of the information is now published not by traditional ways but via web pages, a rather ephemeral tool of publication.

In this context and because of the integration of library services, librarians have to participate to the creation of teaching courses. Librarians are the professionals who know to locate and acquire the new information resources, the new learning tools, the new ways through which library's use will play a key role in the achievement of learning goals. It is up to the librarians to understand and undertake this new role, but managers librarians must stimulate and provoke them to undertake these new roles by arranging continuing education and organizing team management.

Virtual Universities offer electronic full text material for the courses, however this is not capable to substitute the physical library, the library place. Because library's mission is not only collection of the teaching material itself, but also is the memory of humankind. This means that libraries as places, collect material for future needs, future courses and future research. And this material is widely appreciated and chosen by the expert librarian or by the researchers.

According to my opinion, the library's material is impossible to be digitized as a whole. It is not a cost- effective solution. The best solution is the electronic publication parallel to the printed one of future books and periodicals, because the use and the demand of e-publications will increase continually.

The most viable solution is that of cooperation and coordination of the university libraries. If each library undertakes the specialization of every discipline or course, the students of the other cooperated universities could be referred to it and vice versa.

This is the fundamental idea that the Consortium of Greek Academic Libraries is relied upon but it is certain that the national information resources are not ever enough for educational purposes. In this case the financing of the attempts come from the greek government, however it is a matter of discussion if students pay for the services or not, except those who work and attend remotely.

International cooperation is needed for the following:

- ✓ Integrated international classification system proper to the e-material and for retrieval.
- ✓ Standardization on technical and bibliographical issues.
- ✓ Cooperation between libraries for the access or exchange of scientific e-material in specific disciplines, because databases of that kind need enrichment in order to obtain added value.
- ✓ International scientific E-publications on specialized disciplines as result of the cooperation of libraries.
- ✓ International cooperation on Staff education and training.

### **Autobiographical Notes**

**Anthi Katsirikou** has been the Director of the Library of the Technical University of Crete since 1985. She received her Degree in Library and Information Science in 1982 and the Degree in Political Studies in 1989. She was the organizer of the 20<sup>th</sup> IATUL Conference (Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece: May 17-21, 1999). She has participated in National and International Conferences and has issued articles at scientific journals on various aspects of Library management. Now she is currently working towards her Ph.D. degree in the field of Library Management.

Her research interests focus on Innovation Management and Management of Change in libraries. She's a member of IFLA, IATUL and ALA.

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