A Report

For

The Participation in the International Conference Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries September 25-29th, 2011 Berlin, Campus Aldershof Erwin Schroinger-Zentrum, Germany.

BY

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Acknowledgement

My visit to Germany to attend the "international conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries "was made possible by **Bibliothek & Information International** (BII) which is the standing committee of **Bibliothek & Information Deutschland**.

I would like to also extend my sincere thanks to them as well as the following people who organized the conference; Ms. Marlies Olensky- Research Assistant and Professor Stedman from Humboldt **University-Berlin.** I am also grateful to my employer, Uganda Bureau of Statistics and my Manager, Mr Godfrey Nabongo for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference.

Purpose of attending the conference

My purpose of attending this conference was to get acquainted with different experiences of digital library practices in the different countries and how to apply to them to enhance on dissemination of statistical information by my institution. Different information retrieval techniques can be used to improve on research by different information needs of users of electronic resources in order to determine what type of tools and services they prefer

Marlies Olensky and Myself at the registration desk   myself at the venue of the conference

1.0   INTRODUCTION

Bibliothek & Information International (BI-International) is the standing committee of Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID), the Federal Association of German Library and Information Associations which promotes international professional exchange. It promotes the creation and development of Knowledge and experience through International Cooperation and maintenance contacts. The growing of Information Technology put challenges to Library and Information Professionals. Therefore to address this, BII supports foreign library and information professional**s** including those from developing countries. I am a beneficiary of a grant from BI-International to participate in the international conference on Theory and Practice in Digital Libraries in Berlin, Germany from 26th -28th September, 2011.

1.1. Brief about Uganda Bureau of Statistics

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) is the principal data collecting and disseminating agency in charge of coordinating and supervising the National Statistical System.

The Bureau's core business is the production, Coordination and dissemination of official social statistics in order to inform the decision making processes, support the national and local government planning processes and monitor the impact of government initiatives, policies and programs

1.1.1 Vision

"To become a Centre of Excellence in Statistical Production".

1.1.2 Mission

"To develop a coherent, reliable, efficient and demand-driven National Statistical System to support Management and Development Initiatives."

1.2 Statistical Resource centre

UBOS has a Statistical Resource Center (SRC) which is under the Division of Communication and Public Relations. It is an information centre that aims at providing information on which policies and decisions are based for purposes of National Development. The SRC houses information materials for both the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and Population Secretariat (POPSEC).

1.2.1 Services offered

- Act as a referral point for the technical aspects in statistics production.

- Provide Information Services

- Offer statistical current awareness services.

- We also offer selective dissemination of information services

1.2.2 Publications

The information materials cover subject areas such as Population , Population and Development, Official Statistics, Family Planning, Gender, Reproductive Health, Poverty, Key Economic Indicators, National Accounts, Backgrounds to the National Budget, Trade, Livestock, Agriculture to mention but a few.

This report focuses mainly on those two events. It also provides some general information about libraries in Germany that I gathered throughout my visit.

I arrived in Berlin, Germany (Tegel Airport) on 25th September, 2011, **boarded** a cab to Dorint Adlershof Hotel where I stayed for the rest of the days, interestingly; most of us at the conference (participants) were residing at the same Hotel, which gave me a chance to network and share ideas with different people. After resting, I walked to the conference venue at Humboldt Universtat for registration, I was so glad to meet Ms. Marlies Olensky- research assistant at Humboldt University with whom I was communicating and she was very helpful during my stay, I was given the conference kit and a T-Shirt, and then took a walk with one of the participants around the place.

2.0 DAY of ONE – 26th September, 2011

About the Conference

The conference was organised by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin School of Library and Information Science, the Computer and Media Services and the Department of Computer Science). It was the first international Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries after being changed from the European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries (ECDL) was the leading European scientific forum on digital libraries for 14 years.

Early in the morning I walked to the conference venue, looked for the room where the conference was being hosted, on my way I met another participant from Canada with whom I walked with to the conference room. I was anxious and excited to attend the conference and participate in the presentations.

The main conference commenced on Monday, 26th September with welcome remarks by Prof. Stefan Gradmann, welcoming participants for the conference and hoped that everyone benefits from the conference and wished us good deliberations. Presentations were held in English.

The Keynote addresses were led by Mr. Thomas Hofmann "Unlocking the value of digital content, making more value of digital content" of Google, Switzerland; "Paper, Pen and Touch" by Moira Norrie, ETH Zurich; and "The Futures of Digital Libraries: The Evolution of an Idea" by Clifford Lynch, Coalition for Networked Information.

The themes of paper presentations included; Networked Information, systems and Architectures, DL Applicatons and Legal Aspects; User Interaction and Information Visualization;

Below are the paper sessions that I attended during the conference;

Day one – 26th/09/2011

Session 1a Networked Information

1. Connecting Archival Collections: The Social Networks and Archival Context Project (F) Ray R. Larson and Krishna Janakiraman

2. How to Become a Group Leader? or Modeling Author Types based on Graph Mining (F) George Tsatsaronis, Iraklis Varlamis, Sunna Torge, Matthias Reimann, Kjetil Nørvåg, Michael Schroeder and Matthias Zschunke

3. Find, New, Copy, Web, Page - Tagging for the (Re-) Discovery of Web Pages (F)
   Martin Klein and Michael L. Nelson

Session IIa: Systems and Architectures

1. Assessing use intention and usability of mobile devices in a hybrid environment (F)
   Spyros Veronikis, Giannis Tsakonas and Christos Papatheodorou

2. Digital Library 2.0 for Educational Resources (F) Monika Akbar, Weiguo Fan, Clifford A. Shaffer, Yinlin Chen, Lillian Cassel, Lois Delcambre, Daniel D. Garcia, Gregory W. Hislop, Frank Shipman, Richard Furuta, B. Stephen Carpenter, Haowei Hsieh, Bob Siegfried and Edward A. Fox

3. An approach to Virtual Research Environment user interfaces dynamic construction (S) Massimiliano Assante, Pasquale Pagano, Leonardo Candela, Federico De Faveri and Lucio Lelii

4. *CloudCAP: A Case Study in Capacity Planning Using the Cloud (S)*
   Joan A Smith, John F Owen and James R Gray

Session IIIb: DL Applicatons and Legal Aspect

1. *A Novel Combined Term Suggestion Service for Domain-Specific Digital Libraries* (F)
   Daniel Hienert, Philipp Schaer, Johann Schaible, and Philipp Mayr

2. *Did They Notice? -- A Case-Study on the Community Contribution to Data Quality in DBLP (F) Florian Reitz and Oliver Hoffmann*

3. *A Comparative Study of Academic Digital Copyright in the United States and Europe (F)Robert J. Congleton and Sharon Q. Yang*

Day Two – 27ᵀᴴ/09/2011

Session IVa: User Interaction and Information Visualization

1. INVISQUE: Technology and Methodologies for Interactive Information Visualization and Analytics in Large Library Collections (S) B. L. William Wong, Sharmin (Tinni) Choudhury, Chris Rooney, Raymond Chen and Kai Xu.

2. *An Evaluation of Thesaurus-enhanced Visual Interfaces for Multilingual Digital Libraries (S) Ali Shiri, Stan Ruecker, Lindsay Doll, Matthew Bouchard and Carlos Fiorentino*

3. Multilingual Adaptive Search for Digital Libraries (S) M.Rami Ghorab, Johannes Leveling, Séamus Lawless, Alexander O'Connor, Dong Zhou, Gareth J. F. Jones and Vincent Wade

4. *One of these things is not like the others: How users search different resources* (F)
   Dana McKay and George Buchanan

5. Making Sense in the Margins: A field study of annotation (S)
   James Blustein, David Rowe and Ann-Barbara Graff

Session Vb: Archives and Repositories

1. *DAR: Institutional Repository Integration in Action* (F)
   Youssef Mikhail, Noha Adly and Magdy Nagi

2. *Linking Archives Using Document Enrichment and Term Selection* (F)
   Marc Bron, Bouke Huurnink and Maarten De Rijke

3. Transformation of a keyword indexed collection into a semantic repository: applicability to the urban domain (F) Javier Lacasta, Javier Nogueras-Iso, Jacques Teller and Gilles Falquet.

Day three- 28TH/09/2011

Session VIIb: Preservation

1. A survey on web archiving initiatives (F) Daniel Gomes, João Miranda and Migue

2. Coherence-oriented Crawling and Navigation for Web Archives using Patterns (F) *Myriam Ben Saad, Zeynep Pehlivan and Stéphane Gançarski*

3.0   Lessons Learnt

When developing a digital library it's important to know the information needs of your audiences, because our users may vary widely depending on the nature of the digital library.

Online communities depend on user interaction to become active and stay useful. It's therefore important to encourage user participation, fostering social interactions, and promoting visibility of people and their activities. Koh, et al. noted that participation can be of two types: passive participation (i.e., viewing) and active participation (i.e., posting).

During one of presentations, the presenter shared what draws their users to their collection; current resources in their digital library, therefore their users

can come back and access the information resources. They also have a portal, place to get in to access information including twitter, face book and a central website.

With a lot of digital content currently available and its variety, it should be noted that Institutional Repositories have now become vital and crucial component for any organization to preserve and manage the digital assets can be used for publishing and dissemination.

News, multimedia, and cultural heritage archives are opening up and publishing their content online, enabling users to search for items of interest across multiple archives. With the general public gaining access to archive content, therefore an increasing number of users can be expected to exhibit exploratory behaviour rather than directed search typical of professional users.

One way to enable exploration over (multiple) archives is to create links between individual items. On the web a common method to enable exploration is to create hyperlinks between documents allowing a user to wander from one document to the next and gradually explore a topic of interest. In an archival setting the creation of links has received little attention, likely due to the focus within archives on annotation and preservation of individual items, rather than on supporting browsing behaviour.

In the information retrieval context, resource collections are frequently classified using thesauri. However, the limited semantics provided by thesauri restricts the collection search and browsing capabilities. Therefore, it's important

In the information retrieval context, the resources of a collection are frequently Classified and searched using the concepts of thesauri. However, the limited semantics they provide reduce its usability for search and browsing in a collection. Thesauri can be used to expand queries to a collection by including narrower concepts of the selected one (they are about the same theme), but only in a rough way since the lack of semantics in their relations increase the heterogeneity of criteria and interpretations.

The major challenge of web archiving institutes (Internet Archive, etc.) is to collect, preserve and enable future generations to browse off-line a rich part of the Web even after it is no more reachable on-line. However, maintaining a good quality of archives is not an easy task because the web is evolving over time and allocated resources are usually limited.

Coherence ensures that if users reach a page version, they can also reach to the versions of other pages of the same collection, corresponding to the same point in time. In fact, during the navigation in the archive, users may browse a page version which refers to another page, but the two page versions have never appeared at the same time on the real web.

The web was invented to exchange data between scientists but it quickly became a crucial mean of publication. However, the web is extremely ephemeral. Most of its information becomes unavailable and is lost forever after a short period of time. It was observed that 80% of the pages are updated or disappear after 1 year. Even printed publications suffer from the effects of web data transience because they frequently cite online resources that became unavailable.

The web needs preservation initiatives to fight ephemerality. It must be ensured that the information besides being accessible worldwide prevails across time to transmit knowledge for future generations. Web archives are innovative systems that acquire, store and preserve information published on the web. Notably, they also contribute to preserve contents born in non-digital formats that were afterwards digitized and published online. Web archives enable numerous new use cases. Journalists can look for information to document articles, software engineers can search for documentation to fix legacy systems, webmasters can recover past versions of their site's pages or historians can analyze web pages as they do for paper documents.

3.0   SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

3.1   Tour to Humboldt Universitat Library (Jakob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum) 27th September, 2011

I had the opportunity to tour the Humboldt University Library with other 24 participants from other countries. The tour was guided by Christian Winterhalter-reference Librarian, who made a brief presentation about the library; the library was opened in October, 2009 and has won many architectural awards.

It arose from the merger of the central library and other 12 branch libraries. Its collection comprises of Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Economics.
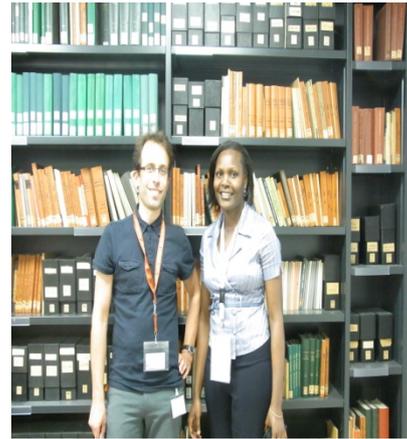It was exciting to note that, it has reading terraces which form the core of the Grimm Centre, i.e. nine terraces cover five floors which moved to during the guided tour by the librarian. The Grimm Centre is frequented by 4,000 - 7,000 people daily. And it is one of the most visited centres in the Germany.

With about 6.5 million holdings, the library uses the RFID technology for quick retrieval and service to the users and he informed the participants that the services of the library are free of charge. We toured some of the 450 public computer work stations, 51 study carrels and study rooms for the groups. And seeing the lounge areas with red armchairs offering opportunities to relax was something I had never seen before.

Then a separate room for the users with children found on 7th Floor that just makes you want to read more since the children are catered for and you don't have to leave them at home and then the "Home zone" for Humboldt students and staff which unfortunately we didn't because of time; we had to go to the conference dinner venue.

Myself inside the Library

Christian Winterhalter (reference Librarian) and myself

3.2 Conference Dinner – Tuesday, 27th September, 2011

After the tour of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Library I headed to the conference dinner together with my colleagues by train to Umspannwerk Kreuzberg, a building which used to house electrical transformers but now holding great events. That was really great transforming such a prominent historical monument of Berlin's industrial architecture of the 1920's to what it is today. I was really impressed. At the entrance, there was this very beautiful colorful fountain bringing freshness to the event. During the dinner, two best paper awards were given out to Ray R. Larson and Krishna Janakiraman for their paper: *"Connecting Archival Collections:* The Social Networks and Archival Context Project". The other one was awarded to Javier Lacasta, Javier Nogueras-Iso, Jacques Teller and Gilles Falquet: "*Transformation of a keyword indexed collection into a semantic repository:* applicability to the urban domain" Congratulations to the author.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- With the Knowledge acquired during the conference; it is imperative for information professionals to embrace the digital era by shifting from the just the traditional library to a digital one.

- I hope to embark on my digital library project at a small scale so that our users can access the statistics on the website.

- In future, an institutional repository will also be established.

- I hope to have a study tour with my colleagues in the resource centre at the Federal Central Statistics Office Library in Germany to share and learn from their IT practices.

5.0 CONCLUSION

All in All, the conference met my objectives as I had anticipated. Because I learned a lot about Digital Libraries, its applications, the legal aspects different dissemination and using mobile phones as retrieval tools that can be used to improve on access of information by users.

With this, I hope to make my resource centre a model one in Uganda where different people can refer to and be able to share the information acquired with my colleagues.