

Report on Internship

In the frame of the Agreement on Cooperation between Goethe-Institute Almaty and National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Goethe-Institute Almaty is engaged in organizing internship for librarians. Internship is directed on acquiring experience from foreign colleagues by trainees.

Goethe-Institute Almaty and BI-International, Library and Information in Germany, organized a two-week internship, from 15th through 26th September, 2008, on the invitation of the Central and State Library in Berlin. Goethe-Institute Almaty and BI-International were supporting institutions. Goethe-Institute Almaty financed flight from Astana to Berlin and back. BI-International financed accommodation and per diem expenses.

According to the programme, my internship included visit of the following libraries: Central and State Library Berlin/American Memorial Library, Freien University Library, Library of Technical University of Berlin. Functioning of libraries, kinds of services rendered to users, acquisitions profile, cataloging systems, electronic resources, and other points were described and shown by librarians at a high professional level. In each library, there were own peculiarities which became interesting for me to recognize. For example, the Library for Children and Young Adults, part of the American Memorial Library, paid great attention to activities with children. The librarians prepared a special nomadic house – yurta - for conducting readings for children and their parents. As for Freien University Library, it has got the newest library building in Berlin for philology department, so called “Brain Library”. Specific architecture of the building allows to include this building in the list of Berlin sights. Press centre of the Library of Technical University of Berlin makes every effort to organize publication of books and papers of the University’s lecturers and students. I knew many useful things in the State Library in Berlin which I visited also. Among those were issues on how librarians knew attendance rate of readers. Some innovation methods on rendering services for users should be applied in the libraries in our country for making processes of searching, ordering, borrowing, and returning books more comfortable for our readers.

I am very thankful to Mrs. Hanke (Central and State Library Berlin), Mr. Ulrich, Mrs. Courzakis, Mr. Siati, Mr. Scheffler (American Memorial Library), Mr. Kende, Mrs. Strunk (Freien University Library), Mr. Richter, Mr. Schneemann, Mrs. Reblin (Library of Technical University of Berlin), Mr. Kurr (State Library in Berlin) and other librarians for warm hospitality they offered me. I wish them and all their colleagues professional successes, fruitful progress in serving readers, and all the best!

I want to express deep gratitude to Mrs. Kysaibaeva (Goethe-Institute Almaty) and Mrs. McLeod (BI-International) for giving me this opportunity to visit Berlin libraries, get acquainted with German colleagues, know about interesting issues in librarianship, and obtain such a nice professional experience.

Tendik G. Ermekpayeva
Head of World Literature Sector
National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Astana city

e-mail: T.Ermekpaeva@nabr.kz