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**Professional Working Visit to the Libraries of
Berlin, Cottbus, Leipzig and Dresden Germany**

15 April to 3 May 2008

Visit Sponsored

By

**Bibliothek & Information International (Library & Information International)
at the Bibliothek und Information Deutschland (BID),Germany**

First of all, let me tribute to Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) for sponsoring my professional visit and also I am grateful to The Rector, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology for approving my Professional Working Visit to Germany.

This professional visit was sponsored and organized by the Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I). It was about 18 days professional visit of the Academic and National Libraries in Berlin, Cottbus, Leipzig and Dresden. It was really wonderful for me to visit National and Academic Libraries of such developed great country.

Please allow me to state that I am grateful for the highly professional and personal attention extended to me by Hella Klauser and staff of Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) and am impressed by the high standards set out by the staff to welcome the international visitors invited by Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID)BI-International.

I take this opportunity to thank once again for extending kind hospitality during my professional working visit to great country's libraries and the organization the Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID) BI-International.

I convey my heartiest gratitude to Hella Klauser and staff, of Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID) BI-International and staff of those libraries to whom I visited for their eloquent explanation about my various visits travelling arrangements and also explanation of the various features of the libraries.

Now, I come to the vision, proactive current awareness, information provision and knowledge management, which I have learned during my visits to German libraries. As we all, know that in librarianship a wide variety of options are open to information professionals. Beyond traditional options in public, academic, and school libraries, just about any organization in the information age needs people to organize, retrieve, and manage its information professionally and this can be done by visiting well developed countries' libraries and seeing their system and learn by vision and discussions with other colleagues, so if you think broadly about your prospects, you are able to maximize your opportunities.

Librarianship is a technical, vision full and life learning profession, In this profession there is always need to keep it update by visiting different type of libraries and meeting with professional staff, which have more advance facilities, knowledge and systems then we for developing their libraries and these visits provide lots of good opportunities in it for further professional development and sitting up new libraries. All these professional techniques can be learned by visiting other libraries and taking vision for developing our own libraries. I availed this wonderful professional development learning, vision full golden opportunity with the courtesy of Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) and visited German Libraries from 15th April to 2nd May 2008.

The main emphases of the professional visit was to see academic and national library buildings, reception area, lockers, book shelve, periodical & journal display, technical and reference services, library automation, data bases, networking etc., rare collections, circulation system and professional works of the librarians, because the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan (CIIT) is constructing its permanent campus on the outskirts of Islamabad, at Chak Shahzad, Islamabad, Pakistan over a land area of 43 acres. The library building is fast approaching completion, and soon there will be a constructed area spanning nearly 200,000 sq. ft. for library which will require all the above facilities.

I visited the following libraries in Berlin, Cottbus, Leipzig and Dresden:

BERLIN:

1. Freie Universitaet Berlin John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies

Lansstr. 7-9
D-14195 Berlin

2. Freie Universitate Berlin Philologische Bibliothek Bibliotheksleiterin

Habelschwerdter Allee 45, D-14195 Berlin

3. Berlin State Library (new building on Potsdamer Strasse

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz and
Referat für Ausstellungen und Publikationen
Department for Exhibitions and Publications
Unter den Linden 8
10117 Berlin

4. University Library of the Technical University in Berlin

(VOLKSWAGEN-House)

University Library in the "VOLKSWAGEN-House" Fasanenstr. 88, 10623 Berlin.

5. Humboldt-Universitatz zu Berlin

Universitatzbibliothek, Zweigbibliothek Naturwissenschaftlern im Erwin-Schrodinger-Zentrum
Rudower Chaussee 26, Berlin-Adlershof, D-10099, Berlin

COTTBUS:

6.Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus

LEIPZIG:

7.Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig

Beethovenstr. 6, 04107 Leipzig

DRESDEN:

8.Sächsische Landesbibliothek -Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden

01054 Dresden

FIRST VISIT TO:

Visit to Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID) BI-International in Berlin

I started my visit on 16 April from Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID) BI-International and met to Hella Klauser, Internationally co-operation, Kompetenznetzwerk for libraries. She briefed me about my visit and explained the functions of Bibliothek & Information International / Library and Information International and told that BID promotes the creation and development of such competencies through international cooperation and maintenance of contacts.

She explained that Bibliothek & Information International is composed of representatives of the member associations of Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID). Bibliothek & Information International coordinates the international know-how-transfer in librarianship, information science and related fields in Germany.



She also explained that BID supports and promotes in various ways, the international professional exchange of information in bilateral and multilateral relationships. A future focal point will be on the promotion of junior professionals. Bibliothek & Information International works mainly on a project-oriented basis and uses funds made available by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (Bundesbeauftragten für Kultur und Medien) and the Foreign Office. Presently the main activities are:

- Sending German experts abroad on professional visits
- Inviting experts from abroad to professional visits in Germany
- Promoting younger professionals by sending them abroad
- Organizing study tours to the Federal Republic of Germany and abroad
- Organizing international workshops, seminars, symposiums and conferences Supporting professional international research projects Supporting German experts participating in European or international conferences

- Building up and participating in international networks

LIBRARIES VISITS:

1. Freie Universitaet Berlin, The John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies:

On 17 April I visited Freie Universitaet Berlin, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Lansstr. 7-9. I was received by the Librarian, Benjamin Blinten. Benjamin briefed me about the history and functioning of the Freie Universitaet Berlin, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies' library. He said that the John F. Kennedy Institute is renowned for its innovative interdisciplinary research as well as its rigorous study programs. Founded in 1963 by the political scientist Ernst Fraenkel, the institute is dedicated to the study of the United States and Canada in all its facets. The seven disciplines brought together at the institute, the numerous scholarships and exchange programs which it sponsors in addition to its world class research library create a unique academic environment. Disciplinary diversity and in-depth intellectual inquiry lay the foundation for excellence in research and teaching.



He also explained that over 700 students are currently enrolled at the institute and participating in the programs offered by the seven different disciplines which the John F. Kennedy Institute brings together: Culture, Literature, Linguistics, History, Political Science, Sociology and Economics. Courses are held in both English and German. In addition to providing students with rigorous training in individual disciplines, interdisciplinary courses pursue questions which transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries.



2. Freie Universitaet Berlin, Philologische Bibliothek Bibliotheksleiterin:

My visit to Freie Universitat Berlin, Philologische Bibliothek Bibliotheksleiterin was arranged on 18 April 2008. I was received by Ms Monika Diecks M.A. She briefed me about the library and took me to all sections of library and showed me arrangements of the book shelve, periodical/journals display and reading area. She said that Berlin has gained a fascinating new architectural landmark and the Freie Universität a new address: the Philological Library designed by the renowned British architect Lord Norman Foster. The new building, which adopts the form of a brain, has provided a new home for 700,000 books in eleven sublibraries. The governing mayor of Berlin and Sir Lord Norman Foster attended the ceremonial opening of the new building, which took place on 14th September 2005. Study Carrels with computers have been provided to



library users for study purpose. The library environment encourages readers to come and sit in library for hours and hours.



Ms Monika gave me her very costly time and explained every service very professionally. I appreciate such devoted professional. I wouldn't keep quite in saying that, first time, I have seen such a beautiful designed building, with an access of natural light at the study area. It is the shining face of the library. I will say with **WOW "What a Beautiful Building for Promotion of Knowledge and Information"**

3. Berlin State Library (new building on Potsdamer Strasse:

I visited the Berlin State Library (new building on Potsdamer Strasse) at 11.30 am on 28th April 2008. Katrin Spitzer and Dr. Joachim Jaenicke were my host during my visit to the State Library. I have found that the Berlin State Library was founded in 1661 by Frederick William of Brandenburg as "Churfürstliche of library "at Cölln on the Spree. In 1701, the library was renamed " Royal Library at Berlin " and kept this name until the of monarchy in Germany in 1918, then renamed to "Prussian State Library".

A Library on Two Sites -The positive development of the library was interrupted by World War II. The entire holdings – at the time some three million books and other materials – had to be brought to safety in 30 monasteries, castles and disused mines. The division of Germany during the decades that followed also had an adverse effect on the library's holdings: only some of its collections were returned to the original Berlin site on Unter den Linden (East) after 1945. Most of the relocated items were initially brought to West Germany, and stored after the late 1970s in the new building in Potsdamer Straße in Berlin (West). Elements of the collection are still located in Poland and the territories of the former Soviet Union. In divided Berlin, both sites pursued an active acquisition policy and supported the work of researchers from all over the world.

Since 1992, the reunited **Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz** provides a service at both its sites in the district of Mitte – Unter den Linden 8 and Potsdamer Straße 33. The extensive palette of services is also reflected in the internal structure of the library: aside from the main departments for collection building, reader services, cataloguing system and academic services, bibliographical services as well as preservation and conservation, there are the Department of Early Printed Books, Manuscript Department, Music Department, Map Department, Eastern Europe Department, Oriental Department, East Asia Department, and the Children's and Young People's Book Department. Newspapers and periodicals are currently located at the library's Westhafen site. The Bildarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz (The Prussian Cultural Heritage Picture Archive), which is affiliated to the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, is located at Märkisches Ufer 16-18.

Holdings Overview

- 10 million books
- 4,400 incunabula
- 18,500 occidental manuscripts
- 40,000 oriental manuscripts
- 250,000 autographs
- 67,000 music autographs
- 1,400 personal archives
- 450,000 print music editions
- 1 million maps and atlases
- 38,000 subscription periodicals and monographic series
- 180,000 early newspaper volumes and 350 subscription newspapers
- diverse electronic databases
- 2,3 million microfiches and microfilms
- 13,5 million images in the picture archive

4. Humboldt-Universitäts zu Berlin, Universitätsbibliothek, Zweigbibliothek Naturwissenschaftlern im Erwin-Schrodinger-Zentrum:

I visited Humboldt University at 3.00 pm on Monday 28 April 2008. I was received by the Dr Voigt Fragen. A complete round of the library was given to me by the Dr Fragen. Dr Fragen briefed me about the activities of the library and said that in a new published university ranking of the center for university development (CHE) and the TIME for 2008/09 the Humboldt's university to Berlin in numerous valued fields takes top positions. The CHE ranking examines not the achievement of a college in general, but grasps different aspects of the study, possibly the equipment or the care in a department.



Thus it is enabled to student to select indicators which are especially important to you in the possible study location and which correspond best of all to your wishes. Every year a part of 30 well-chosen fields is revalued by the students itself.



I was very much impressed and surprised, when I saw a Robot taking books to the requested sections, what a good use of Information Technology. Dr Fragen is very nice and helpful man he showed me each and every corner of the library and explained their services in detailed.

5. University Library of the, Technical University Berlin (VOLKSWAGEN – House)

I was supposed to visit this Technical University on 30 April, but due to other visit this visit was cancelled. I visited this university on 29 April with out any appointment and saw building with my own angles and vision.

The library building is an excellent example of Public-Private Partnership. The building has 5 floors and a basement. The Technical University library occupies 4 floors and the basement whereas at 5th floor there is the Berlin University of the Arts Library.

6.Brandenburgische University of Technology, Cottbus:

I visited Brandenburg University of Technology's library on 21 April 2008. My host was Dr. Andreas Degkwitz, Director of the Library.

Dr Degkwitz briefed me about the library and showed me library shelving system, study area, study carrels, periodical/journal display and also display of the audiovisual material.

Dr Degkwitz explained the functions of the library and told that University was founded in 1991 as the only technical university in the Federal State of Brandenburg; More than 5000 students, of which approx. 1000 students come from over 80 countries;The largest groups come from China, Cameroon, Poland, Bulgaria, India, and the Ukraine. He said that new library building designed in a very innovative style by Swiss Architects Herzog and de Meuron. It is called the "Information, Communication and Multimedia Centre" (IKMZ) and replace the old library in the main building.

The University library has over 470,000 books and 1,800 different scientific, regional and international magazines and periodicals, Microfiche, video, maps, diskettes, CD ROM's in addition to standard printed text are available. Students can borrow an unlimited number of books. IKMZ has about 600 computer work stations with internet connection. Students can also access the internet from their laptops.



7. Universitaets Bibliothek Leipzig:

I visited university library of Leipzig. My host was Dr Ulrich Johannes Schneider, Director of the library. He received me with smiling face and arranged my visit to show me all the sections of the library. During my discussion with Dr Schneider he briefed me



about the different services of the library and explained that the university library of Leipzig, founded in 1543, serves as one of the oldest German university libraries the literature care and care of information of the university as well as the population of the metropolitan area Leipzig. He also explained that because of her valuable old continuance and extensive special collections the university library is also taken up nationwide and internationally. Medieval and modern manuscripts, incunabula, the papyrus and autograph collection as well as the collection Ostraka and coin collection belong to the most significant collections. The university library passes of the main library "Bibliotheca of Albertina " as well as 29 branch libraries near the scientific equipment of the university of Leipzig. Presently their continuance encloses more than 5.4 million volumes and about 6500 running magazines.

The "Bibliotheca of Albertina "forms the core of the einschichtigen library system. It is the center for the literature acquisition and literature development with a central commercial way for numerous branch libraries as well as for the interlending. Central technical equipment like photo place, bindery and restoration workshop is in the main library.

In addition, the "Bibliotheca of Albertina "is an archive library for the whole library system of the university and the Saxon academy of the sciences as well as mind-scientific central library of the university of Leipzig. Since 1st January, 1998 the university library of Leipzig for the special collective area is communication sciences and media sciences, journalism responsibly.



The UBL supports the students, teachers and searching of the University of Leipzig with wissenschaftlicher literature and with electronic media, with dependable catalogs and big free hand areas, with modern public libraries and more topically Reproductive technology and a specialist mediation of information. Besides, the UBL narrowly cooperates with libraries of the land Saxony and other federal states together.

I spent more then 4 hours in the library had have a cup of coffee with Dr Schneider and learned a lot from most experienced professional man.

8.Sächsische Landesbibliothek -Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden:

I visited Sächsische Landesbibliothek -Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek at 1000 hours on 24 April 2008. My host was Dr. Thomas Bürger, Generaldirektor Sächsische Landesbibliothek - Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden. Ms Manuela B Queitsch, Head of Digitilization Centre was my guide during the visit to the University. She breifed me about the history of the library and told that the Saxon land library arose from the Kurfürstlichen furnished in 1556 by elector August library. This was first in the residence castle, then in the kennel and from 1786 in the Japanese palace - from 1788 publicly accessibly -



accommodated. To the land library belong beside the book museum also a comprehensive collection of Saxon literature, a special music department and the biggest stenografische technical library of the world.

She explained that the Saxon land library united in 1996 with the university library of the technological university to the Saxon land library and university library (SLUB). The university library had arisen from the library founded in 1828 of the royal-Saxon educational institution.

Today with a continuance of 7.2 million books and magazines the SLUB is one of the most significant scientific libraries of Germany. She orders more than 34 locations in the Dresden city. The new main building SLUB in the cell ash left in 2003 in company. She told me that the functional construction of the SLUB new building was started in 1998 and finished in 2002. The building is an interesting Architectural beautiful open design for the books and other material. Visiting this library was very fruitful and informative for me.

OBSERVATION, FINDING AND USEFULNESS OF THIS VISIT:

- A. During my visit to Academic and National Libraries, I have learned a lot for the improvement of present COMSATS Institute of Information Technology library Information Services and particularly got lot of vision and knowledge for setting up new library at CIIT new campus at Chak Shahzad, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- B. I strongly suggest that each year Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) should select a group of librarians from Pakistan for these professional working visits and provide them an opportunity to see well developed libraries of the great country Germany.
- C. I suggest that these visits should be shorter for 10 to 15 days for giving opportunities to more and more professional librarians to see such wonderful libraries of Germany.
- D. I also suggest that Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) should arrange by themselves visits of the librarians to the different universities and national libraries and also make Hostel/Hotels booking for the visiting professional librarians.

I am once again thankful to Bibliothek & Information International (BI-I) who provided me an opportunity to see wonderful libraries of the Great Republic of Germany.

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