

The report prepared by:

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web-site of the BSU FL: <http://www.library.bsu.by> (in Russian)

web-site of the Belarusian Library Association: <http://www.bla.by> (in Russian)

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Great thanks to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus for its support of the Belarusian Library Association's initiative devoted to developing international professional relations and exchange of professional experience between Belarusian and German librarians.

Our special thanks to Dr. Hannelore Vogt, Director of the Cologne Public Library, for her personal involvement into working out our professional visit program in Cologne and information about libraries in Wurzburg.

Great thanks to Mr. Tim Goverdovski, working for |a|S|tec| applied System technology GmbH (<http://www.astec.su>) (Berlin), for organizing and conducting the study tour in the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum at the Humboldt University Library.

I would like to express our gratitude to all German colleagues who contributed in organizing and conducting the study tour. We consider success of our professional visit as a bright evidence of library professional solidarity and cooperation of our Associations. Of course, in our turn, we will be glad to see our German colleagues in Belarus to show them our cultural and professional sites.

The Belarusian Delegation

The Belarusian delegation consisted of 53 librarians (library directors, deputy directors, leading specialists, newcomers of the profession) that represented different types of libraries (public, child, university, research ones), located in Brest, Gomel, Minsk, Molodechno, Svetlogorsk, and Zhodino. They all are individual members of the Belarusian Library Association (BLA) (<http://www.bla.by> (in Russian)).

The BLA as a non-governmental and non-profit organization was founded on June 16, 1992, officially

registered on May 3, 1993 and re-registered on September 20, 1999. It was founded to promote development of the library system in Belarus, coordinate efforts of librarians of different Belarusian ministries to solve the most topical problems of library activity and information service, provide social and legal protection of librarians of the Republic of Belarus.

BLA has been doing much developing contacts with the most advanced library institutions in Europe. Recent years almost 100 librarians from all regions of Belarus visited Poland, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Norway and returned home full of positive impressions and desire to realize the most interesting and advanced ideas in practice work of their own libraries. Participants of the bus library study tours had possibility to get acquainted with modern library architecture design and up-to date library information technologies that are implemented at public and university libraries, to learn more about the unique culture of the European countries. During such the professional and cultural visits there were made thousands photos that had become valuable information resource in order to develop information library service of Belarusian citizens.

After the study trips there were made a lot of presentations and reports on international, republican, regional conferences and seminars, conducted at libraries located in all regions of Belarus. Also some articles were published in republican professional library journals.

For example, you can find a photo-report about the 2010 Belarusian librarians' professional visit supported by BI-International at http://www.bla.by/BLA_EURO2010.html (captions in Russian). The PP-presentation "*European Libraries: only one aspect of that we had seen – organization of user space*" prepared by Dr. Elena Dolgoplova, Deputy Director of the National Library of Belarus, is located at http://www.bla.by/public/LE_2010.ppt (captions in Russian).

Participants of the library study tours were mostly women and paid all expenses of the trip from their family budgets. To increase attractiveness of the 2010 library professional tour, participation in which was undertaken at their own money, some remarkable cultural and historical places in European countries, which are commonly visited by ordinary tourists, were included in the tour program. Belarusian librarians visited 3 Loire valley castles in France, Luzern and Zurich in Switzerland, Wroclaw (and its City Mediatek and the Public District & School Library) in Poland.

Before the trip a few assigned trip participants had collected information materials, e.g., videos, about the cities, libraries and the other remarkable places, which would be visited during the trip. For example, Yurgen Zefeldt and Luidger Seere's "*Portal to the Past and the Future – Libraries in Germany*", translated by Galina Isaeva, Hildeshaim, Georg Olms, 2007, was provided for us by the Goethe Institute in Belarus. All the materials are presented to study tour participants during staying the delegation in a bus.



Also the CD-ROM with PP-presentations about Belarusian libraries, BLA activities was prepared and was given to the German and Polish libraries, which were visited.

German Libraries

Berlin

Unfortunately, due to certain limitations we had possibility to visit to Berlin only on Sunday, May 16, 2010. The Belarusian tour company provided us with a city bus & walk tour and we had time to visit only the Humboldt University Library, more exactly, Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum (<http://www.grimm-zentrum.hu-berlin.de/>), which was opened in October 2009.

The **Humboldt University of Berlin*** (<http://www.hu-berlin.de/>) (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*) is the Berlin's oldest university, founded in 1810 as the **University of Berlin** (*Universität zu Berlin*) by the liberal Prussian educational reformer and linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt.



From 1828 it was known as the **Frederick William University** (*Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität*). In 1949, it changed its name to *Humboldt-Universität* in honour of both its founder Wilhelm and his brother, naturalist Alexander von Humboldt.



Of course, it is impossible to tell comprehensively enough about the university and its library in so the small writing and I would like to highlight the following, in my opinion, very important feature of such social institutions as universities and libraries as **traditions**. In my opinion, they are very bright indicator of quality level of educational and library services at a university. As for traditions, I think, it is very important to **personalize** them. Of course, university and library facilities are very important too but our most powerful impressions we have got from people, their personalities, in our case, from university personnel, teaching and library staff.

The traditions of the **Humboldt University of Berlin** are based on such the remarkable personalities as Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt.

Friedrich Wilhelm Christian Karl Ferdinand Freiherr von Humboldt* (June 22, 1767 –April 8, 1835), government functionary, diplomat, philosopher, founder of Humboldt Universität in Berlin, friend of Goethe and in particular of Schiller, is especially remembered as a linguist who made important contributions to the philosophy of language and to the theory and practice of education. In particular, he is widely recognized as having been the architect of the Prussian education system which was used as a model for education systems in countries of Europe, in the United States and Japan.



Humboldt was a philosopher of note and wrote *On the Limits of State Action* in 1791-1792 (though it was not published until 1850, after Humboldt's death), one of the boldest defences of the liberties of the Enlightenment. It anticipated John Stuart Mill's essay *On Liberty* through which von Humboldt's ideas became known in the English-speaking world. Humboldt describes the

* The information is taken from wikipedia.

development of liberalism and the role of liberty in individual development and in the pursuit of excellence. Humboldt insisted on a minimal state dedicated strictly to the preservation of security.

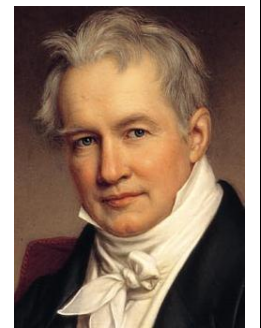
As Prussian Minister of Education, Humboldt oversaw the system of Technische Hochschulen and Gymnasien. Humboldt's plans for reforming the Prussian school system were not published until long after his death, together with his fragment of a treatise on the 'Theory of Human Education' which had been written in about 1793. Here Humboldt states that 'the ultimate task of our existence is to give the fullest possible content to the concept of humanity in our own person [...] through the impact of actions in our own lives'. This task 'can only be implemented through the links established between ourselves as individuals and the world around us.' Humboldt's concept of education does not lend itself solely to individualistic interpretation. It is true that he always recognized the importance of the organization of individual life and the 'development of a wealth of individual forms', but he stressed the fact that 'self-education can only be continued [...] in the wider context of development of the world.' In other words, the individual is not only entitled, but also obliged, to play his part in shaping the world around him.

As an adept linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt studied the Basque language. He translated Pindar and Aeschylus into German. He is credited with being the first European linguist to identify human language as a rule-governed system, rather than just a collection of words and phrases paired with meanings. This idea is one of the foundations of Noam Chomsky's theory of language.

More recently Humboldt has also been credited as an originator of the linguistic relativity hypothesis (more commonly known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis), approximately a century before either Edward Sapir or Benjamin Whorf.

Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich Alexander Freiherr von Humboldt

(September 14, 1769 – May 6, 1859) was a naturalist and explorer. Humboldt's quantitative work on botanical geography was foundational to the field of biogeography. Between 1799 and 1804, Humboldt traveled extensively in Latin America, exploring and describing it for the first time in a manner generally considered to be a modern scientific point of view. His description of the journey was written up and published in an enormous set of volumes over 21 years.



He was one of the first to propose that the lands bordering the Atlantic Ocean were once joined (South America and Africa in particular). Later, his five-volume work, *Kosmos* (1845), attempted to unify the various branches of scientific knowledge. Humboldt supported and worked with other scientists, including Joseph-Louis Gay-Lussac, Justus von Liebig, Louis Agassiz, Matthew Fontaine Maury, and most notably, Aimé Bonpland, with whom he conducted much of his scientific exploration.

His brother, Wilhelm von Humboldt, died in Alexander's arms on April 8, 1836. The death saddened the later years of his life; Alexander lamented that he had lost half of himself with the death of his brother.

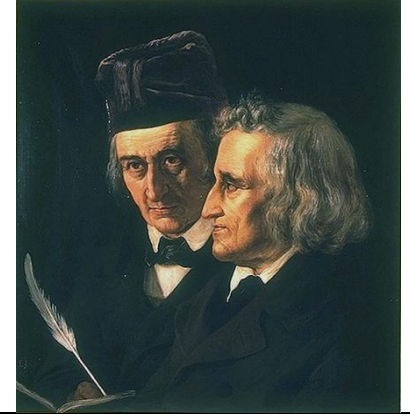
Sorry for so long citation of the wikipedia, but it is very important for me to show that certainly, both of the brothers are bright and inspiring patterns of serving for science, truth and the people. And librarians have to search such examples and know about them to demonstrate them to library users.

In my opinion, our German colleagues at the **Humboldt University of Berlin** were very lucky and proficiently wise to use a chance to name the new library building as **Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-**

Zentrum. First of all, they gave their respect – and in my opinion, they made that *in proper time* - to the world-known **story-tellers of folk tales**, secondly, they have attracted attention to the personalities, which most of the people in the world today associate with the main characters of the movie ‘*The Brothers Grimm*’ (2005), which plot resembles the contents of the sagas from the brothers' collections, much more than the academic nature of their lives.

The **Brothers Grimm, Jacob** (January 4, 1785 - September 20, 1863) and **Wilhelm Grimm** (February 24, 1786 - December 16, 1859), were academics best known for publishing collections of folk tales and fairy tales. Though their collections of tales became immensely popular, they were essentially a by-product of the linguistic research, which was the Brothers' primary goal.

Jakob Ludwig Carl Grimm (also **Karl**) was a philologist, jurist and mythologist. He is best known as the discoverer of Grimm's Law (the first non-trivial systematic sound change to be discovered), the author (with his brother) of the monumental *Deutsches Wörterbuch*, the author of *Deutsche Mythologie*.



Wilhelm (left) and Jacob Grimm (right) from an 1855 painting by Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann

In the very early 19th century, the time in which the Brothers Grimm lived, the Holy Roman Empire had recently dissolved, and the modern nation of Germany did not exist. In its place was a confederacy of 39 small- to medium-size German states, many of which had been newly created by Napoleon as client states. The major unifying factor for the German people of the time was a common language. Part of what motivated the Brothers in their writings and in their lives was the desire to help create a **German identity**.

Less well known to the general public outside of Germany is the Brothers' work on a German dictionary, the *Deutsches Wörterbuch*. It was extensive, having 33 volumes and weighing 84 kg (185 lbs). It is still considered the standard reference for German etymology. Work began in 1838, but by the end of their lifetime, only sections from the letter 'A' to part of the letter 'F' were completed. The work was not considered complete until 1960.

In 1808, Jacob was named court librarian to the King of Westphalia. In 1814 he was sent to Paris to demand restitution of the books carried off by the French. Meanwhile his brother, Wilhelm, had received an appointment in the Kassel library, and in 1816 Jakob was made second librarian under Volkel. Upon the death of Volkel in 1828, the brothers expected to be advanced to the first and second librarianships respectively, and were dissatisfied when the first place was given to Rommel, the keeper of the archives. Consequently, they moved next year to Göttingen where at the university Jakob received the appointment of professor and librarian (1830), and Wilhelm that of under-librarian. Jakob Grimm lectured on legal antiquities, historical grammar, literary history, and diplomatics, explained Old German poems, and commented on the *Germania* of Tacitus. Wilhelm became a professor in 1835.

In 1837, the Brothers Grimm joined five of their colleague professors at the University of Göttingen to protest against the abolition of the liberal constitution of the state of Hanover by King Ernest Augustus I, a reactionary son of King George III. This group came to be known in the German states as *Die Göttinger Sieben* (*The Göttingen Seven*). The two, along with the five others, protested against the abrogation. The professors were fired from their university posts and three were deported, including Jacob.



The Göttingen Seven. Top row: Wilhelm Grimm, Jacob Grimm. Middle Row: Wilhelm Eduard Albrecht, Friedrich Christoph Dahlmann, Georg Gottfried Gervinus. Bottom Row: Wilhelm Eduard Weber, Heinrich Georg August Ewald.

Jacob settled in Kassel, outside Ernest's realm, and Wilhelm joined him there; they both stayed with their brother Ludwig. However, the next year, the two were invited to Berlin by the King of Prussia, and both settled there and received professorships at the university (today **Humboldt University of Berlin**), and were elected members of the Academy of Sciences.

Their last years were spent in writing a definitive dictionary, the *Deutsches Wörterbuch*, the first volume being published in 1854.

The spirit, which animated Jakob Grimm's work, is best described by himself at the end of his autobiography:

"Nearly all my labors have been devoted, either directly or indirectly, to the investigation of our earlier language, poetry and laws. These studies may have appeared to many, and may still appear, useless; to me they have always seemed a noble and earnest task, definitely and inseparably connected with our common fatherland, and calculated to foster the love of it. My principle has always been in these investigations to under-value nothing, but to utilize the small for the illustration of the great, the popular tradition for the elucidation of the written monuments."

I hope, I have written enough for understanding so important for university education the features as traditions and university atmosphere that are reflected in the Humboldt University of Berlin **statement of mission** (<http://www.hu-berlin.de/ueberblick-en/leitbild/>). Maybe, someone seems the statement of mission as too long but in my opinion, namely details determine immanent features of both an institution and a person. As the last world crisis has showed, the humanity is still imperfect. Universities form the elite of the societies and, in my opinion, university libraries have to play more significant role in that than just providing information services on the basis of up-to-date computer and communications technologies. The right information & library technologies are output of the right statement of mission of the university and it was pleasant and useful for all study trip participants to visit the new library building of 'a university at the heart of Europe', *Alma Mater Berolinensis*.

Cologne

The professional program of the study tour in Cologne for May 17 – 18, 2010 was prepared thanks to Dr. Hannelore Vogt, Director of the City Public Library System in Cologne, and her colleagues.

The study tour participants group was divided into 2 subgroups: 1) librarians working at public libraries with the Goethe Institute in Belarus German-Russian interpreter and 2) librarians working at special libraries (about 25 persons in each subgroup).

For **the first subgroup** the following professional measures were conducted:

- ◇ Excursion in the Cologne Public Library (<http://www.stbib-koeln.de/english/>) (provided by Gabriele Kunze);
- ◇ PP-presentation about the Stadtbibliothek Koeln activities (provided by Dr. Hannelore Vogt);
- ◇ Seminar “*Digital library services and information & library services for schoolchildren*” (provided by Constanze Döring);
- ◇ Excursion in die Stadtteilbibliothek Porz (provided by Frau Faubel and Frau Gerten).



For **the second subgroup** the following professional measures were conducted:

- ◇ Seminar “*Web-portal of the University and State Library in Cologne* (<http://www.ub.uni-koeln.de/>)” and demonstration RFID-technologies in the home loan service (provided by Dr. Peter Kostädt);
- ◇ PP-presentation about the German National Library of Medicine (der Deutschen Zentralbibliothek für Medizin (<http://www.zbmed.de/>) (provided by Ulrich Korwitz);
- ◇ Excursion in the German National Library of Medicine, Health, Nutrition, Environment and Agriculture (provided by Dr. Ulrich Korwitz);
- ◇ PP-presentation about the Technical Higher School Library in Cologne (der Hochschulbibliothek der Fachhochschule Köln(www.bibl.fh-koeln.de) (provided by Dr. Peter Otzen)



Wurzburg

Thanks to help of the Goethe Institute in Belarus we installed contacts with Frau Flicker, Director of the **City Public Library** (<http://www.wuerzburg.de/stadtbuecherei/index.html>) and Dr. Karl Suedekum, Director of the **Jullius-Maximillians University Library** (<http://www.bibliothek.uni-wuerzburg.de/>) in **Würzburg**.

The study tour participants group visited Wurzburg on May 21, 2010 and as well as in Cologne it was divided into 2 subgroups: 1) librarians working at public libraries with the Goethe Institute in Belarus German-Russian interpreter and 2) librarians working at special libraries.

Excursion in the Central City Public Library and the PP-presentation about its activities were provided for the first group. The Würzburg City Library has gained a reputation as one of Germany's most user-friendly and innovative libraries. Its comprehensive range of services and effective use of modern media make the City Library an outstanding example of customer orientation. The library has already won the "Bavaria Online Prize 2003" for its exemplary electronic services". In addition, it earned the "Library of the Year" award in 2003, which is presented annually by the German Library Association. In the German Library Index (BIX), which presents a nationwide comparison of public and academic libraries, Würzburg – as in 2003 – ranked first place in 2005 among German big city libraries, first and foremost because of how well it scored in the cost-effectiveness and employee orientation categories. During years Dr. Hannelore Vogt worked as Director of the City Library.



Excursion in the new building of the main library of the Julius-Maximilians University Library and the PP-presentation about university library activities were provided for the second group. The University of Würzburg was founded in 1402 and until its official convocation and reopening by Prince Bishop Julius Echter in 1582, the university library did not exist as a central institution.



The library was established by Echter's successor, Gottfried of Aschhausen, who in 1619 inaugurated the "Bibliotheca Academica Godefridiana", which was located at the Old University (Alte Universität) renaissance building on Domerschulstraße until 1981. In 1981, to accommodate the growing literature and to offer better services to the university community, the library moved to its current location at Am Hubland. The building currently being used as the library's central service enterprise of the university is over 20 years old and was designed by the architect, Freiherr von Branca.

Today, the main library and the affiliated faculty, clinical and institutional libraries contain more 3.4 million items from more than two millenniums, from antiquarian and classical 2nd century Sossylos-Papyrus from Egypt, 2.257 mediaeval manuscripts, 2.949 incunabula from early to modern times, over 8.000 current periodicals, and digital and multimedia CD-ROM learning materials.

The university library is open for use to students, university staff, and the public on more than 340 days a year.

Positives and Recommendations

A- Positives

On Sundays only library users and security officers can be seen at the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum.

In one reading room at the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum there are user places for parents and game space for their children.

The Web-portal of the University and State Library in Cologne provides integrated access to all electronic information resources accessible for library users.

In the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum a width of an alley in book-storages is equal to the width of a window.

In the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum book shelves are in black to make literature on the shelves more attractive for library users.

In Germany there are 2 libraries responsible for information service of Medicine, Health, Nutrition, Environment and Agriculture on the national level; one of them – in Cologne, the other one – in Bonn. The Library in Cologne is the second largest library in the world in these fields and most important document supplier for biomedical literature in Europe: 250,000 orders from outside (1,000 per a working day).

B- Recommendations

Due to a lack of the time we couldn't visit the new and very impressive building of the **Philologische Bibliothek der Freien Universität** (<http://www.fu-berlin.de/bibliothek/philbib/index.html>) in Berlin. The building, which adopts the form of a brain, was designed by the renowned British architect Lord Norman Foster and certainly, it has to be included in a library professional study tour program.

All the presentations provided by German colleagues were very interesting and rich in content. On the other hand, I am sure, experience of Belarusian libraries would be interesting to our German colleagues and presentations about Belarusian libraries' activities have to be included in a program of such library professional study tours initiated by library associations.