

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

24 - 26 April 2012 in Bielefeld, Germany
10th International Bielefeld Conference

**REPORT OF MY ATTENDANCE IN THE 10th INTERNATIONAL
BIELEFELD CONFERENCE FROM 24th – 26th APRIL, 2012 IN
BIELEFELD, GERMANY**

PRESENTED BY:

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SPONSORS:

- BI-International**
- Goethe Institute of Johannesburg**

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By John Bosco NTUNGIRIMANA

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This 10th International Bielefeld conference was possible thanks to the Contributions of Organizations and professional Colleagues of Germany both Bibliothek & Information International and Goethe-Institute of Johannesburg.

I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to organize this international conference.

However, it is with great pride and pleasure to express my sincere and profound appreciation of the considerable support given by Bibliothek & Information International, a commission of BID without forgetting Goethe-Institute of Johannesburg.

My great gratitude is also extended to Mr. Benjamin Blinten of the Bibliothek & Information International, Mrs. Ulla Wester, Head of Library & Information Services sub-Saharan Africa, Goethe-Institute of Johannesburg for their unwavering and reflective support.

Last but not least, many thanks also to all participants in the 10th International Bielefeld conference. I would think in particular Mr Andreas Knobelsdorf from Zentralbibliothek of Universität Hamburg and Mrs Ulrike Küsters who strongly encouraged me to make partnership, networking and cooperation with other professionals from Germany, Europe and America.

As well, I would finally like to thank the staff members of Bielefeld University library, who guided us all about their valuable work. I think especially here Ms Susanne Riedel, Publikationsdienste.

2. INTRODUCTION

From 24 to 26 April 2012, I attended the 10th International Bielefeld conference in Bielefeld (Germany). It was my first time to go in Germany. The theme of the conference was: “Shaping Future-INFO-Structures: Feeding Data, Designing Information Services and Building ICT-Infrastructure for a digital Natives’ World”. I was the only participant from Burundi and Africa continent.

The Conference was held in the conference hall located in the Bielefeld Convention Center. There were more than 180 participants from various parts of Germany and foreign countries. In the conference, I was happy to meet and gain the friends such as: Mr Benjamin Blinten from BI-International, Mr. Andreas Knobelsdorf from Zentralbibliothek of Universität Hamburg, Mrs. Ulrike Küsters from Stuttgart, Ms Susanne Riedel, From Bielefeld University Library, Mrs. Mag. Jana Porsghe from Austria, Mr. ODU OBIAJULU from Norway and their Colleagues, Mr. Liauw Toong Tjiek from Petra Christian University, Mrs. Karin Cecilia Rydving from Norway. For more details, see below some pictures:



Ms Susanne Riedel and her Colleague



Jean Bosco NTUNGIRIMANA is talking with his Colleague Mr. Andreas Knobelsdorf



Jean Bosco NTUNGIRIMANA with his Colleague Dr Michael Höppner

3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MY STAY AND MY TRIP

As mentioned on my invitation Letter, Bibliothek & Information International, a commission of BID, the umbrella organization of the German library and information associations kindly offered me a financial support of 440.00 EUR for my attendance in this important event. The financial support consists of a flat amount of 80. - Euro per day (all inclusive) for the duration of my stay (4 days) and the registration fee (early bird). In addition, my travel grant was supported by Goethe-Institute of Johannesburg (South Africa).

Furthermore, it means that I was responsible of other expenses like health and trip insurance and other further expenses or commitments in any form are not acknowledged.

4. About the conference presentations

The conference presentations were held in English and in Germany without simultaneous translation in other languages.

• First Day of the conference

The first Day of the Conference began with registrations and Greetings.

The Conference commenced on April 24th, 2012 in the afternoon with the Welcome addresses conveyed by four persons.



Picture of the beginning of the conference

After the official Welcome addresses, the conference began with the first presentation entitled: “From Containers to Context: the changing Role of Libraries in escience and eResearch”.

During this afternoon, I attended five presentations such as:

-The Data Challenge - For Libraries;

-Shaping the Digital Transformation - The Contribution of the German Research Foundation to an Innovative Information Infrastructure for Research;

-Libraries and Library Networks at a Crossroads;

-Electronic Library Resources and Organizational Change.

All presentations were very interesting. They showed me the importance of the Changes in the use of library services, user expectations, external factors and the development of cloud based services will stimulate libraries to leave important traditional systems and services to trusted organizations and to benefit more from network cooperation. Thus, some presentations emphasizes the strategic priorities of the upcoming roadmap in more detail, addressing such topics as National Licensing, Digitization, Open Access Publishing, Research Data and Virtual Research Environments as main focus areas.

The first day was closed by the Conference Reception in the Small Hall at 7 o clock PM and the Mayor of Bielefeld welcomed the delegates along with the Rector of Bielefeld University.

• **Second day of the Conference**

The second day of the conference commenced in the morning at 9 O Clock AM and closed with a Conference Dinner at the Hotel Bielefelder Hof from 20.00.

In the presentations, I was particularly interested in the following themes:

- Measuring Impact: a Whole College's Approach to Curriculum Liaison ;
- Openness in Scientific Communication: the View from Science Studies ;
- The Catmandu/LibreCat Project: A Development Strategy for Repositories ;
- Linking Publications to Data ;

- OAPEN - The Case for Open Monographs ;
- Public Conference Lectures ;
- Cloud Computing for Libraries?;
- EUDAT - Building an European Data Infrastructure ;
- Feeding Research Data ;
- DataCite - International Consortium for Data Citation ;
- High North Research Documents - a Thematic Overlay Service of Open Access Documents.

- **The third and the last day of the conference**

The third and the last day of the conference began at 9o' clock A.M as usual with a first presentation on the theme “Research Productivity and Collaboration with Mendeley and the Role of the Library ».

- ❖ Libraries' Syndicated Contents for the Digital Natives' Era ;
- ❖ Applied Research as a Basis for High Quality Information Services - a CIO's Perspective ;
- ❖ Social Computing for Libraries - Data De-Duplication through the Crowd ;
- ❖ The Potential of Semantic Technologies for Libraries ;
- ❖ Linked Open Library Data ;
- ❖ From Linked Data to Linked Science ;

The conference was closed with a Farewell Address with this picture below :



5. Other Visiting places

After the conference, Mr. Andreas took me and guided me in making tour in District Appeal Court of Bielefeld, in Museum of Bielefeld and in other places.



Library of Bielefeld District Appeal Court



Visiting University Bielefeld Library

However, after the tour with Mr. Andreas, he had invited me for dinner with him before my departure to Hannover. I left Bielefeld on April 26th, 2012 in order to visit a Burundian family who lives there and I spent one night with them because my flight to Brussels' Airport was in a very early morning of April 27th, 2012. Unfortunately, the flight had a delay of one hour past thirty minutes.



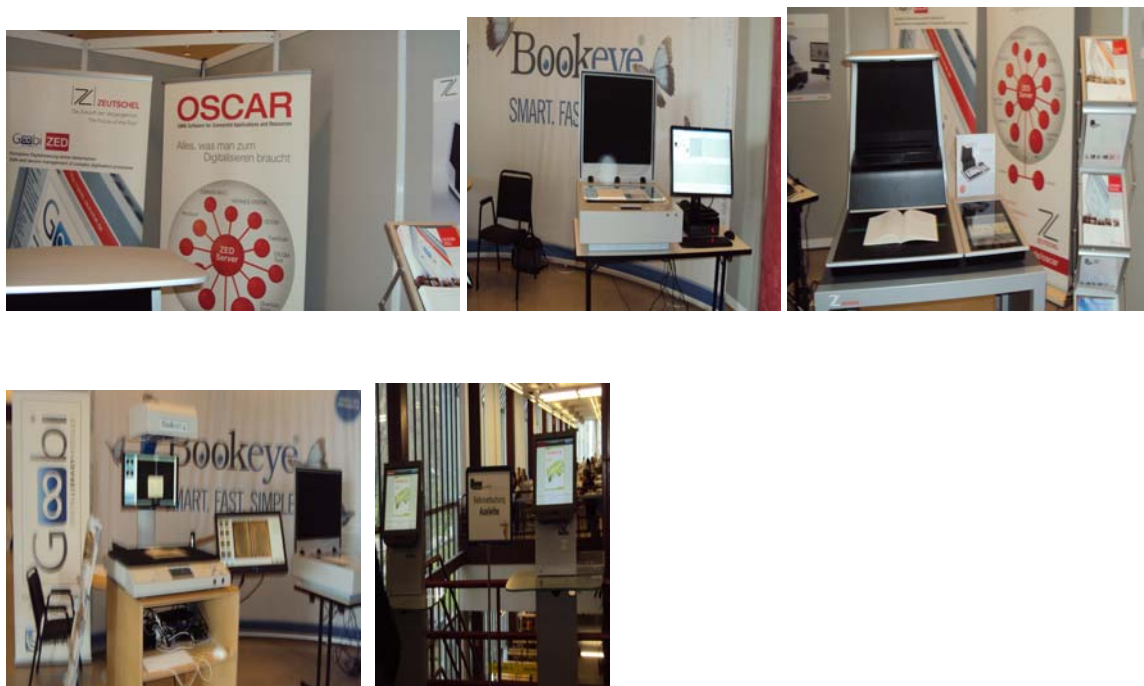
At Bielefeld Train Station: before my departure to Hannover

6. Exhibition

During the conference, I had an opportunity to visit an exhibition of different products for digitization. In this field, I could say Publishers, book sellers and software vendors displayed their products and also interacted with participants. It was an occasion to review the latest developments and innovations and to tap into exhibitor's expertise and knowledge.

When I arrived in front of their stands, they gave me some gifts such as: pens, toys, sweets, books, pencils, handbags, notebooks, etc.

For information, these are some pictures taken during my visit in the different exhibitions:



7. Over all summary of Conference experience

I gained valuable experience that I brought back with me to be implemented in my organization. The experiences I garner at this international conference cannot not be compared to any professional experience have ever had. It was so enriching. I learned more about

the trends of digitization and preservation of library materials, e-libraries in Europe and globally.

This experience has enriched not only my professional knowledge, but also my personal view of other countries, other professionals, and other institutions. Otherwise, I would like to continue to share ideas and knowledge, while interacting with colleagues from the rest of the world, especially from in Germany.

The conference gave me the opportunity to meet participants from in different countries. The Networking experience was very beneficial.

8. Suggestions and Recommendations

As Burundi was an old colony of Germany, all sectors of activities could be developed without forgetting the information and Libraries management. In this context, I would like to express the following suggestions and recommendations:

- Burundians professional could get a comprehensive view about the German Libraries work procedures and have an excellent opportunity to Visit various libraries such: University and specialist libraries;
- Burundians Librarians and Archivists could learn more about the digitization and software using in electronic systems in some Libraries in Germany in order to have some facilities to implement this system in their respective services ;
- To get possibilities for travel bursary for development practitioners and practical training about using and implementing electronic system in Libraries and information services management;
- To get possibilities to Burundians Librarians and members of Burundian's Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists for exchanging ideas and experiences with German Librarians via Librarianship, partnership and cooperation;

- To offer the Burundian professionals for Libraries to send two and more delegates to a professional tour in Frankfurt, Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart and in other places in order to exchange best practice examples;
- To get in our Country the Goethe Institute of Bujumbura. This Organization could help our Country to share the developmental experience in various fields and get useful advice by meeting professionals in information technology in libraries and information services management ;
- To get the training programmes in order to contribute to capacity building and human resource development on modern library practices.

9. Deepest Appreciation

I want to use this medium to appreciate the entire BI-International and Goethe Institute of Johannesburg and the sponsors for giving me the opportunity to attend the 10th International Bielefeld conference. I was so happy to see how the other librarians wanted to help those Burundian colleagues in making the networking, partnership and cooperation.

Briefly, the conference was:

- ✓ A unique opportunity to discuss best practices within the libraries;
- ✓ A good opportunity to get a variety of viewpoints can help us to change or improve our own ideas and processes;
- ✓ A good opportunity to know and to share experiences from other colleagues;
- ✓ Very important because I gained useful experience in technological development in libraries and information science management.

9. Conclusion

To summarize and to conclude my report, I would really like to say that the 10th International Bielefeld conference was a real chance for me to attend seminars, lecture and presentations. It provided me a real opportunity to network with other Colleagues. This 10th International Bielefeld conference was a great opportunity to enrich my future professional projects.

I am extremely thankful to Mr Benjamin Blinten, Mrs Ulla Wester, and Mrs Mc Leod for continuous support, assistance, and their kindness shown from time to time, without which, this international conference would not have been successful and Fruitful.

Once again I thank BI-International and Goethe Institute of Johannesburg in providing me with this opportunity. Thank you so much for your help. Hope to see you once again next year in Germany.

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