

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP AND IFLA PRESIDENTIAL MEETING IN BERLIN, GERMANY 15TH-20TH FEBRUARY 2009

Introduction

This is a report of our Professional Internship and participation in the IFLA Presidential Conference in Berlin Germany on 15th-20th February 2009. Our participation in both of the above activities was made possible by Goethe Institut Nairobi and BI International of Germany. Our return Air tickets were donated by the Goethe Institute, Nairobi, while BI International provided our accommodation and subsistence of which we are very grateful. We are also grateful to Mr. Eliphias Nyamogo of Goethe Institute, Nairobi and Ms Hella Klauser of BI International, Germany for coordinating the entire activity for us. The Professional Internship which mainly entailed touring selected innovative libraries in Berlin was to start on 15th February 2009 while the conference was to start on 19th February 2009.

We (Elizabeth Yegon and Esther Obachi) arrived in Tegel Airport, Berlin via Zurich on Sunday 15th February 2009. Our flight from Nairobi had been delayed for one hour which translated to further delay at the Zurich Airport where we were to connect our flight to Berlin. This caused us to be four hours behind schedule. We boarded a bus to Hotel Park Inn, Alexanderplatz where we had been booked for the first day before we transferred to Meerbourn hous in Tiergarten for the rest of the days.

We missed the Museum Island tour that had been scheduled for that day due to the flight delay.

1.1 TOUR OF LIBRARIES

1.1.2 MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2009: TOUR OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF BERLIN

On the morning of Monday 16th March 2009, my colleague and I toured the State Library of Germany. It was a great challenge and an interesting adventure to locate the library and all other places we visited as we were using a map written in German language and we know very little of the language. We were given a guided tour of the State Library by Dr. Joiachim Jaenecke, who is the Personal Assistant to the General Director of the Library. Unfortunately, we did not tour the City and Central Library which was scheduled for the afternoon due to time constraints.

The State Library is located in two sites in the city of Berlin. The oldest library is in the what used to be known as East Berlin and the modern one is in what used to be known as West Berlin. The state library in the “West Berlin” is housed in a magnificent modern building which was officially opened in 1979, by the then President of France, Valery Giscard D’estaing. The library was established in 1661 and was used as a royal library. The status of the Library changed in 1918 as the Prussian State Library until 1945 when Berlin was divided into West and East Berlin. The holdings of the library were also divided, some of which are currently in Poland. The library is computerized and has a seating capacity of 950 seats. It also has a lecture hall. The library is funded by the Federal government and its annual budget is 10 million Euros. Annual purchases range between 120,000 to 150,000 books. The library has a workforce of 800 members of staff.

Holdings of the library

The holdings of the library comprise 10.5 million books, online journals, 1 million maps, 500 music recordings, 900,000 manuscripts which comprise 13 million slides and photos.

Library charges

Patrons pay a fee of 25 Euros in a year or 10 Euros in a month to use the library. Books are loaned for four weeks and patrons pay an overdue fine of 2 Euros per day

Special Features of the library

(a) Special departments:

(i) Language department that houses collections foreign languages such as Shanghai, English and Latin America

(ii) Oriental department for East Asia collections

(iii) Preservation and Binding department

(iv) Newspaper department

(v) Research department with 70 Research Librarians. The library also has special language librarians

(b) Control room that distributes resources to several stations within the library. The resources are what patrons return to the library after they borrow and use. Part of the resources comprise new purchases

(c) Internet centre

(d) Bibliographic centre

(e) A copy centre that is outsourced

(f) Highly qualified librarians (70 research librarians, 5 of whom are music research librarians)

1.2 TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 2009: TOUR OF THE PHILOLOGICAL LIBRARY AT FREIE UNIVERSITY AND THE NIKOLLIN DISTRICT LIBRARY

1.2.1 Tour of the Philological Library, Freie University

In the morning we visited the Freie Public University Library where we were warmly received by the Director of the Library, Ms Monica Diecks. The Director gave us a conducted tour of the library. The library is housed in 5 floors of a modern magnificent building designed by a British designer, Lord Norman Foster. The space ship structure of the library building gives the library a unique and attractive feature. The library has also been described as “The Brain” owing to the fact that it also has the shape of the brain of a human being. It is the newest and best library in Berlin. It was opened in 2005. It is fully automated and has a sitting capacity of 680 with a workforce of 25 members of staff.



Left: A section of the outside view of Freie University Library (Note the oval shape of the building): Right: The circulation area of Freie University Library (We are standing in the circle)

Library holdings

The library's holdings comprise of 800,000 books excluding online journals. The library has 13 departmental libraries and serves five faculties of the university. The library's budget for books is 200,000 Euros. 10,000 books are bought annually.

Opening hours

The Library is open on week days from 9.00 am to 10. 00 pm and on Saturdays from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Special features

- (i) The library has a computer lab where students do private work, access the internet and online journals.
- (ii) The library has 105 computers with internet access
- (iii) It provides services to students with disabilities. The students have an extended loan period of 6 weeks instead of the normal 2 weeks. The room designated for use by the students is equipped with appropriate equipment for example a Reader, CCTV computer and a scanner. The library works closely with university's office for students with disabilities to establish the needs of the students.

Orientation programmes are offered to new students by library staff. Like in all academic libraries, the programme is offered on a continuous basis. The focus of the programme is information search skills with special emphasis on IT competency skills, use of the OPAC and online journal databases.

1.2.2 Tour of Nikollin District Library

In the afternoon, we visited the Nikollin District Library also known as the Central Library. The library is situated in the middle of the Southern District of Berlin. We were received and given a guided tour of the Library by the leader of the Children's Library Ms.Monika Wotzka.

Nikollin District Library is 100 years old and is the largest public library in the Southern District of Berlin. It serves a population of over 300,000 people from many ethnic groups comprising Polish, French, English, Spanish and Turkish, Greek, Dutch and Serb communities. It has three branches and serves 25 primary schools in addition to the general public. The library is computerized and uses the VOEBB Library system that is used by all public libraries in Berlin.

Holdings of the library

The library's holdings comprise of 70,000 books for adults, 28,000 books for children and 30,000 CDs. The collection includes information resources for the different ethnic communities served by the library. The library sourced for funds from a donor to purchase the information resources for these communities. The library houses one of the three music libraries in Berlin. The music library has thousands of music CDs and notes for playing music.



Left: Book shelves in the children's library Right: A children's play pen in the library to make reading fun for children

Lending services

The library is open from Monday to Friday during office working hours and half day on Saturdays. Patrons are allowed to borrow books for two weeks and music CDs for one month. Renewals are done online or through phone. The library does not stock information resources for persons with disabilities. Patrons who use wheel chairs access the library with ease as it has inbuilt physical facilities such as a ramp, lifts and customized restrooms.

Membership

Adults pay an annual membership fee of 10 Euros. Children, pupils, high school students, the retired and the needy use the library free of charge.

Special feature

Volunteers who include university students assist high school students and primary school pupils in their assignments after school.

The library also hosts Art exhibitions that are booked early in the year by members of the community

1.3 WEDNESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2009: TOUR OF BERLIN TECHNICAL AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND PARLIAMENT LIBRARY

1.3.1 Tour of the Berlin Technical and Fine Arts University Library

On the morning of Wednesday 17th February 2009, we visited the Berlin Technical University. We were welcomed and given a conducted tour of the library by the Library's Public Relations Manager, Dr. Anke Quast.

The university library was established in 1884 to serve students of a mining academy that was operating from as far back as 1770. Original collections that were housed in the library were destroyed during the 2nd World War. The current library was constructed at a cost of 55 million Euros and is housed in a building known as Volkswagen Building owing to its funding by Volkswagen Company to the tune of 5 million Euros. The Federal government contributed 25 Euros for the construction of the library and Technical Institutes contributed a total of 20 million Euros. The library serves 30,000 students of the Technical University which occupies the first three floors and 4,000 students of the University of Fine Arts which occupies the 4th floor of the

library. Non-student members pay a subscription fee of 15 Euros. The library building has fire alarm systems, water sprinklers and smoke detectors for use in case of fire outbreaks.

The library has 18 branch libraries that serve the main departments of the university which are Physics, Engineering (Naval, Aeronautics, Space), Food Technology, Maths and Law. The library is computerized and it uses ALPHE Library system software that is used by all university libraries in Berlin.

Holdings of the Library

The central library has 3 million items consisting of books; print and online journals, CDs and DVDs. Archival materials date as far back as 15th century and occupy a floor space of 1,300 metres. The Architectural museum has 54,000 items. The Fine Art Library has CDs, DVDs, notes, Keyboards and Pianos.

Special journals and newspapers are digitized. Journals of 2000 and below are bound and kept in closed access. Books of 1985 and below are also kept in closed access.

Services provided

- The library provides lending services to students which include interlending services with other libraries.
- The library works in liaison with the University's office of students with disabilities to identify needs of the students. Two library staff give assistance to students with disabilities. Blind and students with low vision students are provided with appropriate equipment which they use to access information, for example monitors with screens that enlarge print and have voice capability.
- Study carrels are provided for use by students
- Photocopying services are outsourced but offered within the library building

Special features

- The Library gives space for exhibitors to exhibit their materials, for example Artists and Sculptors
- The library has reached out to preserve cultural traditions by housing collections on Agriculture

1.3.2 Tour of the German Parliament (Bundestag) Library

On Wednesday afternoon, we visited the German Parliament Library where we met with a group of Librarians from the Middle East. The Parliament Librarian gave a presentation about the Library. The library was established in 1949 in Bonn with a stock of 1,000 volumes. It was moved to the current Marie-Elisabeth-Luders Building, a modern magnificent building within Parliament premises in 2004.

After the presentation, we were given a conducted tour of the library and the Parliament building by a senior staffer of the Bundestag.



Part of the reading area of the Bundestag Library

Holdings of the Library

The holdings of the library are 1.3 million volumes (excluding reference materials) on parliamentarianism, politics, law, economics, social sciences and modern history. It subscribes to 8,000 periodicals. Special collections include parliamentary materials, official publications, publications of international organizations and grey literature.

The library acquires approximately 15,000 new volumes annually and receives 7,500 periodicals of which 5,500 are of an official or semi-official nature. Purchases are enriched with legal deposits and exchange of publications. The holdings include a large number of German and foreign parliamentary publications as well as other official publications in Germany. The holdings of the library are accessible through the online catalogue at <http://opac.bibliothek.dbtg.de:8080>

Staffing and Organization

The library has 86 staff, 15 of whom have university education and 31 have Polytechnic qualification. The rest are skilled in other areas for example bookbinding. Others provide ordinary services as craftsmen and stack assistants.

The Library is a department under the Information and Documentation Directorate-General. It has four sections namely;

- (i)Collection Development I- responsible for legal deposits
- (ii)Collection Development II – responsible for direct purchases of information resources and donations
- (iii)Indexing and Documentation section- responsible for indexing monographs and literature which is not published as bibliographically independent items’ maintains the thesaurus and authority files; is also responsible for subject cataloguing of the publications
- (iv)Information and Reference Service – responsible for assisting patrons with information and literature search

Patrons of the library

The library mainly serves members of the Bundestag, parliamentary groups and the Bundestag Administration. In addition, Federal and Land Authorities in the Berlin regions, staff of the central associations of trade and industry represented in Berlin, the diplomatic missions, German and foreign journalists are allowed to use the library.

Services provided by the library

The Library provides Lending and Reference services to members of parliament. This includes information search which involves sorting and providing literature according to topics of interest. Patrons are also given orientation/induction on the use of the library and catalogues

Publications

The library publishes a monthly bulletin on recently acquired and newly indexed resources targeting patrons, an in-house information bulletin on recently relevant publications and reading guides on current subjects. The publications can be accessed online

Seminars/Guided tours

The library conducts seminars and guided tours for visitors every Wednesday.

1.0 3RD IFLA PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: THURSDAY 19TH AND FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2009

The two days meeting was held in Europa-Saal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin. The theme of the meeting theme was Access to Knowledge: Networking Libraries. It was jointly sponsored by IFLA, Bibliothek & Information Deutschland, Auswärtiges Amt, Abu Dhabi Authority of Culture & Heritage, Robert Bosch Stiftung and Goethe-Institut.

Meeting participants were drawn from library and information professionals Germany, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Indonesia, Canada, Malaysia, Austria, Middle East and Africa.

1.1 Meeting of Thursday February 19th 2009

This was held at the Foreign Affairs building

Participants were welcomed to the meeting by IFLA President and Director General ZLB, Prof. Dr. Claudia Lux. The official opening speeches were delivered by Mr. Thomas Gotz of Federal Foreign Office, Directorate-General for Culture and Communication, Mr. Khaled Al Dhaheri of Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, Ms. Lisa Heeman of Robert Bosch Foundation, Mr. Dr. Christoph Bartmann of Goethe Institut and Ms. Babara Lison of Library and Information Germany (BID).

Papers were presented in three sessions.

In the morning session, the following papers were presented:

- (i) The development of the Information Society as a National Obligation by Mr. Khaled Al Dhaheri, National Library, United Arab Emirates
- (ii) Libraries for Access to Knowledge: Information Services and Information Literacy Today by Ms Ellen Tise, Library and Information Services Stellenbosch University, South Africa: IFLA President elect 2009-2011
- (iii) The Digital Library as a Social Change by Ms. Prof. Dr. Claudia Lux, IFLA President

Papers presented in the afternoon session had one common theme namely, ***Building Infrastructures in a Global Knowledge Society***. The following papers presented addressed this theme:

- (i) Excellence Through Cooperation: The Example of the German National Libraries by Ms. Dr. Irina Sens, German National Library of Science and Technology, Germany

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- (ii) Synergy of Cooperation: Examples from Arabic Countries by Ms. Dr. Sohair F. Wastawy, Library of Alexandria, Egypt
- (iii) Providing Access to Knowledge in the Arab World: The Role of AFLI as a Professional Society by Mr. Dr.Saad Azzahri, Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI),Saudi Arabia
- (iv) Services for Science and Education on a National and Global Scale: The Oriental Department of the Berlin State Library by Ms. Barbara Schneider-Kempf, Berlin State Library, Germany

In the third session which was the final session of the day, presentations focused on the theme ***Young Academics and Information Literacy***. The following papers were presented to address the theme:

- (i) Information Literacy in the University Curriculum by Ms. Gladys Saade-Azar & Ms.Maud Stephan, Lebanese University, Lebanon
- (ii) Information Literacy in a Multicultural Environment: Challenges for Young Professionals by Ms. Shukriah Haji Yon, Penang Public Library Corporation, Malaysia

The first meeting was crowned with a reception hosted by IFLA President at the Central and Regional Library of Berlin

1.2 Meeting of Friday, February 20th 2009

Friday meeting had only two sessions for paper presentation.

The morning session theme was Digital Knowledge and Cultural Heritage – An International Approach to Repositories. The following papers ere presented on this theme:

- (i) Cultural Heritage and Digitization by Mr. Driss Khrouz, National Library, Morocco
- (ii) Library Concepts of Digitization in Europe and Worldwide by Ms. Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann, German National Library
- (iii) Chances and Challenges in Worldwide Digital Cooperation by Mr. Prof.Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Sanabani, Sanaa University Libraries, Yemen

The final panel discussion was the focus of the afternoon session. The theme of this session was ***Libraries and Science: Partners in the Arena of Global Digitization – Limitations and Possibilities***. The session was moderated by a number of professionals that included Ms. Prof. Dr. Claudia Lux, IFLA President, Mr. Dr.Faris Al- Saqqaf, Public Authority of Books of the Ministry of Culture, Yemen and Mr. Sami Batrawi, Ministry of Culture, Palestinian territories.

The Friday meeting was crowned with a tour of the Library and Archives of the German Foreign Office guided by Ms. Dr.Gundula Felten and Mr. Dr. Gerhard Keiper

2.0 Lessons learnt

Libraries in Berlin attach a lot of importance to preserving the German culture. In this respect, the libraries maintain rich archives with information resources dating as far back as the 15th century as demonstrated by the Technical University of Berlin

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Libraries in Berlin network with and assist different communities to disseminate information. The Technical University and Nikkolin District Library offers space for exhibition to special groups

Public libraries in needy areas of Berlin as demonstrated by Nikkolin District Library assist students and pupils in activities aimed at improving their academic performance. In this library, volunteers assist the students and pupils to do their class assignments every evening after school.

Libraries in Berlin have effective risk management equipment and procedures

Compiled by Esther Obachi and Elizabeth Yegon