

July 2015

**Professional Tour in Germany:
The Library as a Learning Space and An International Meeting Place
29/6/15-7/7/15, University of Bochum**

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On the occasion of fifty years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, The Israel Organization for Librarians, ASMI, together with the Goethe-Institute Israel and The University Library of Bochum organized a professional tour in Germany for library directors of 18 libraries in Israel.

The tour included visits to a variety of libraries in the state of Nord-Rhine-Westphalia, university, college, public and special libraries, meetings with colleagues and exchanges of information on various issues related to the world of library and information sciences.

The tour was sponsored by Bibliothek & Information International (BII) in Germany and the Goethe-Institute Israel.

Ms. Dr. Erdmute Lapp, library director of The University of Bochum, organized and prepared the tour and all the activities during the visit – as agreed with the Israeli partner and the Goethe-Institute Israel.

A preparation meeting was held on 17.6.2015 at the Goethe-Institute library, Asia House, Tel Aviv. At the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Grit Fiedler, the Director of the Library and Information Center, explained about the activity of the Goethe-Institute in Israel and worldwide. Then, the organizers of the tour from ASMI, Ms. Toni Buda (Goethe-Institute), Ms. Dr. Sanda Berkovich and Mr.Dr. Shahaf Hagafni (Committee Chairman) gave some details concerning the tour and the places that we would visit.



The tour participants would like to thank the Goethe-Institute, BII and especially Ms. Toni Buda and Ms.Dr. Erdmute Lapp, the library director of the Bochum University library, for the interesting and well organized tour that included both professional meetings and many interesting cultural events. We would also like to thank Ms. Susanne Hennig, information librarian at the Bochum University, who joined us on some of our tours.

We met many colleagues from various libraries and learned a lot about the role of libraries in German culture. We have made many new contacts during those meetings and we hope that we can keep up with the connections that we made for a future fruitful collaboration.

We stayed at the university facility guest house, LSI- Landesspracheninstitut in the Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum. It was well located, clean and with an extremely agreeable atmosphere.

We would also like to thank the bus drivers who drove us everywhere and waited patiently for us during our many tours.

We would like to mention some special events that made a great impression on us:

- The special reception at the Bochum University library on the first day of our visit, organized by Dr. Lapp.
- The visit to the Bochum synagogue and the Saturday evening dinner at which we felt a real pleasant Shabbat atmosphere.
- The visits to the Annual Open Air Music Festival held in several locations in the Bochum city center.
- The visit to the Museum of Mining in Bochum and the Botanical gardens.
- The theatre-play "A midsummer night's dream" (in English) at the university.

We would like to thank all our hosts in all libraries we visited for the very welcoming and interesting tours; As a token of our gratitude for the hospitality shown, we presented our hosts a special gift from Israel, dates and the book "The Museum Presents Itself: Israeli Art from the Museum Collection".

Following a summary of our tour:

Tuesday, 30.6.15:

Public Library, Hamm

The tour was led by Dr. Volker Pirsich, the library director.

The group was welcomed by the mayor, Ms. Ulrike Waesche, and was photographed by the local press.

The Krefeld Public Library has a large new and impressive building at the Western center of the city of Hamm. It opened in 2010 to serve the 180,000 inhabitants of the city, and designed to cater for the needs of the multi-national and multi-lingual population.

The Library's 5,000 Sq.m. spread out on six floors of well designed and inviting spaces. The library was awarded Library of the year already in 2005, before the opening of the new building.

The service isn't free since the library's budget is partially based on self generated income. There is an RFID automated return and sorting system. The system sends all returned items to the floor they belong, practically almost into the hands of the librarians who have to put them back on the shelves.

The collection is organized according to themes and subjects that reflect patrons' interests and not on traditional classification systems.

The library has a variety of technology based materials and services, including a wealth of 30,000 E-lending books, audio books and videos, a gaming zone for kids, the TING Audio

Pen, which allows kids to listen to what is written in a book by pointing at it with the pen, and more. The collection contains 60 foreign languages especially for the new immigrants.

2. Bochum University library

The tour at the library was led by Dr. Erdmute Lapp, library director.

The library has lately been renovated in order to build new facilities and create various learning spaces for individual studying and group studying.

The renovations took place over a period of time and were the initiative of the library director who put a lot of efforts into achieving them. The areas are very varied and the readers have many options to learn in formal and informal ways. There are studying places with pc's and other with electricity to bring your own laptop (there is an option to leave a sign to keep your place while you go for a break, up to half an hour). There are workstations for people with special needs.

The library collection has is in the library building but also on offsite storage (10 minutes from the library). Print editions of journals are not kept if electronic archive has been purchased.

There is a cafeteria adjacent to the library.

The library director has made many changes in the library in order to the digital age and new ways of learning.



3. Presentations by Prof. Beth Bloom, Seton Hall University, Associate professor and instruction librarian:

- a. The library as a learning environment.
- b. Is EDS a solution? Results of a survey on students' search habits, comparing Google and the EDS discovery tool

Wednesday, 1.7.15:

1. The public library at Krefeld - Mediothek.

The library Director, Mr. Helmut Schroers, met us at the entrance and gave us an explanation about the library and its activities. The group was photographed for the local press.

The building has no separate floors. Instead it's built by upward-going platforms, one leading to the other, with no use of stairs in between them, thus allowing equal access to everybody, including people with disabilities.

Flexibility is an important principle, for example: The shelves placed at the large central space encompassing the non-book collection are on wheels and are moved away to make place for major cultural events, such as the Annual Ball; Three rather small activity rooms can be turned into a nice space for 70 people by sliding away the walls.

All the furniture was designed especially for this library by a local designer and in full cooperation with the library staff. We saw items such as unique book trolleys with very large wheels and a brake; side panels for shelves that can slide upwards allowing for easy change of the information sheets attached to them; a seating which encourages the user to lift the legs while sitting, and more.

The library is located next to the theatre and a Café serves both institutions.

In a city of 230,000 inhabitants, the one remaining public library (after closing down three branches and two mobile libraries) serves an estimated number of 40,000 people (17.5% of the population), responsible for some 4,000 loans and 4,000 returns daily, representing some 35 loans on average yearly per patron. These are made possible by the automated RFID system that was installed at the library, and by applying the principle of self-service for both loans and returns.

Cultural activities: Mediothek Krefeld partners with other institutions in a number of cities in the region, including some in the Netherlands, for a yearly literary festival called "The Literary Summer". An effort is made to locate the literary meetings with authors at special venues, such as a Boxing Arena or a Rowing Club.



2. The Folkwang University Library at Essen. The explanation about the library was given by Viola Springer.

The University is specialized in art, music and dance. The building is from the middle ages.

The library was renovated in 2012. The renovation was made while preserving the external style both the outside and the inside of the building. For example, Use of wood and old style including wooden floors.

There is much use of natural light. The library has a special classification system and uses the ALEPH computerized system for the catalog. It has no discovery tool. There is collaboration with other academic university libraries.

Some of the librarians have an arts educational background, which is useful for helping students.

The collection includes about 50,000 items of records, scores, books and more. There is an archive area with a special collection of records, scores and rare books. The library received a special donation of records from Alfred Krupp. The most recent score is from 1729.

The Library was renovated in a way that keeps the old style of the building.

Thursday, 2.7.15:

1. Muenster University library - ULB. The explanation was given by Katrin Steiner.

The university has about 40,000 students, 3000 from outside Germany (there are some programs in English, but most of them are in German). 130 fields of study in 15 departments.

The current building is from the seventies. There are about 5000 visitors a day. In addition to the central library there are more than 100 faculty and departmental libraries.

The central library has lately been renovated and a new building was added to the old one. The aims of the renovation were to adapt the library spaces to the new needs and ways of learning. In order to achieve this goal more seats, group study rooms, a cafeteria, conference rooms and more facilities for students were added.

A number of people were involved in the renovation: the architect, the owner of the building, the university construction department and the librarians.

The new building is located next to the old one and access to the new reading rooms is from the main entrance at the old building.

At the entrance of the old building there is a big room with many computers. During our visit this area was fully occupied with students who learned and talked together. This is the only place at the library with pc's. At the other reading room the student come with laptops.

An audio tour in English and German is available for all. This audio introduces the most important services, how to get your library card, how to find books and journals, and how to use online resources such as electronic texts and databases).

The library has machines for self- service: loans, payment of fines or bills, interlibrary loan services. Next to the entrance there is a big screen with information about the library. The library uses Primo central as a discovery tool.

The ULB is on the whole a very advanced library with many services for the benefit of the student.

2. Haus der Niederlande

The Haus der Niederlande collects all materials about the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. The library is funded by the DFG.

In recent years the way of collecting the materials has been checked and changes have been made. Today they collect materials in electronic format that are needed for specific research.



Friday, 3.7.15

1. Wuppertal University Library. The explanation and the tour of the library were given by Joern Krepke.

We were welcomed in a seminar room with 2 presentations showing some aspects of the university:

- a. Facts and figures about the university (founded 1972, 19000 students)
- b. Research and teaching profiles.
- c. Brief overview about the library collection
- d. International cooperation and programs for students from other countries (languages teaching and help in integration).
- e. Recent renovations in the library by extension of the old building and additions of new study areas, 600 Sq.m. by adding a new floor on top of the old building. There is independent learning without supervision, multiple group areas and single work spaces, there are no books and shelves on the new floor, instead there are pc's and Wi-Fi. The new floor is also designed with very modern furniture. During our visit the new floor was fully in use, which proved that the renovations were very successful.



2. Bochum public library. The library director, Waltraud Richartz-Malmede and her assistant M. Dubke, gave us an explanation about the mission of the library its educational aims and the various services that are available for the public.

The Bochum libraries serve some 21,000 library-card holders, 25% of them under the age of 11, producing around two million loans a year. The network holds some 1,000 visits and

training sessions a year for approximately 70,000 visitors, the majority of them children and youth.

The central library, built in 1980 and spread over 2,700 Sq.m. , has undergone many changes during the years. For example, in order to make room for new kinds of media, such as music CDs, films and computer games, the number of books had to be reduced significantly.

The library network's vision is focused on promoting learning and supporting the development of life skills, first and foremost reading and information skills. Special attention is given to the immigrant population in this context, and many programs are designed for this purpose:

The library sends boxes with books to various institutions, such as kindergartens or nursing homes for the elders, to compensate for the inability to visit the library themselves.

Educational institutions are exempt from library fees and are allowed to loan materials for whole groups at a time. Children under the age of 11 are also exempt from library fees. First graders are invited to the library for a tour and get a book as a present. The library serves as a free meeting place for interested groups of all ages. One room in the library is dedicated to a Job & Career Center, with a significant collection and 20 daily newspapers to read. The first floor is dedicated for children with: games, cd's, books, place for reading hour, soft furniture and changing place.



Monday, 6.7.15:

1. Martin-Optiz library at Herne. The brief explanation about the library was given by Dr. Hans-Jacob Tebarth and a tour by Dr. Arkadiusz Danszczyk.

This library is a special library that focuses on the subjects of Culture and History of the Germans in Western Europe.

The collection includes some special collections like postcards from Lodge, materials before 1900 and more.

During our visit we learned about the library, its special projects on Jews, its collaboration with other institutions and some aspects related to the technology and digitalization projects. We also had a tour in the library and the archive.

At the entrance there was a special exhibition of books on the subjects of Israel and the Holocaust.

The library was founded in 1949. The library moved to the current building in the nineties. The library collection holds about 310,000 items and every year new materials are added to the collection by acquisition and by donations. The donations come mostly from private

people and from small libraries with special collections that can't keep all items but want to secure them for the future.

Library services are given either in the reading room or by mail. The users are researchers and students, or people who search genealogical materials for private purposes.

Special projects regarding Jews- The library collaborates with the institute of Steinheim to digitize materials about the Jews in Western Europe in the 19th century "Judaica-Suchmaschine".

We were given a tour at the digitalization area and were shown the special scanner. We learned about copy right issues that the library deals with (only materials dated before 1900 are scanned) and we learned about a special service for scan on demand for a fee. The digital library is one of the major projects of the library and free access to all materials (includes OCR technology) is given to all.

Both the special collections make this library unique and interesting as well as the various services that are given to the users.

2. Conference at the University of Bochum in the presence of the Rector of University Bochum Prof. Elmer Weiler , Dr. Erdmute Lapp, Prof. Beth Bloom (Seton Hall University, USA) and librarians from Bochum University.

The Rector, Prof. Weiler, opened the conference with welcoming words after which lectures were given by some library directors who represented the Israeli group.

1. The Hebrew University Libraries: New roles for new times in international cooperation programs and in serving the academic community. Lecturers: Dr. Sanda Bercovici, lecturer on Information Science and Librarianship at David Yellin Academic College, Jerusalem. Michal Hai Attiass, Harman Science Library Director, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and lecturer at David Yellin Academic College, Jerusalem.

2. The Technion library system - vision, mission and challenges. Lecturer: Dalia Dolev, Technion Library Director, Haifa.

3. The Academic college library as a cultural center and as a place for international cooperation. Lecturer: Dr. Dania Ansenberg, David Yellin Academic College Library Director, Jerusalem and Head of librarianship studies program.

4. Challenges in international cooperation of libraries: The Israeli Bat-Sheva Dance Company Exhibit in New York. Lecture: Miriam Posner, Director, The Sha'ar Zion - Beit Ariela Library & Libraries Department. Tel Aviv- Yafo Municipality.

5. Challenges and practices: Arab students in Western Galilee College Library. Lecturers: Zahava Santo, Director, Western Galilee College and Elham Hanna, librarian, Western Galilee College Library.

6. The Art library in the memory of Meir Arison: functioning in contemporary social and communal contexts. Lecturer: Yifat Keidar, The Art Library Of Meir Arison, Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

After the lectures Dr. Lapp gave a short overview about the exhibitions that were held in the library over the past few years on various subjects and the collaboration with other institutions.



Tuesday, 7.7.15:

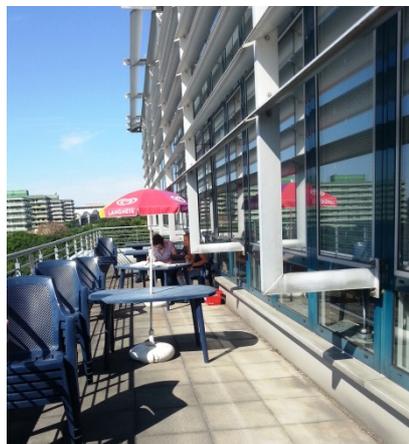
Fachhochschule Bochum = College library at Bochum.

In the last day we visited a college library. The college is part of Bochum's University of Applied Sciences. The explanation was given by Nicole Gerling, information librarian. There are two separate libraries in the college: an Economic and Technical library. The libraries serve 8,500 students and include 80,000 collection items. The economic library also lends books to the students studying economics in the university. The catalog is local and common to three college libraries one of which is outside Bochum. The libraries use RFID as an automated self-service system for loans and returns.

At the entrance of the libraries, the new eBooks are presented with QR codes that are linked to the full text of the book through a smartphone.

The libraries are pleasant and warm. Each one has a terrace where the students work under a parasol. The libraries don't have separate places where individuals and groups may work, therefore, in order to manage the noise level, they placed a "Noise Light" so that the students may see that as long as the Light remains green, the "silence level" is kept.

In the Cafeteria that is situated adjacent to the Technical Library, there are tables with electrical and internet points available to enable the students to connect and learn through their laptops.



It was a very interesting and fascinating tour. We would like to thank again our hosts, especially the BII, The Goethe-Institute Israel and Ms. Toni Buda and most important Ms. Dr. Erdmute Lapp who organized the tour, took care of all details and was very sensitive to the groups' needs.

This trip gave us the opportunity to exchange ideas with our colleagues in Germany. We learned that both in Israel and in Germany libraries and librarians deal with the same issues: changes in the needs of our users, changes in technology and the need to adapt library facilities to those new needs, budget cuts and staff issues, the need to rearrange print collections and the growing of electronic material collections and more.

We hope to continue with the collaboration that has already been started and we hope to have the opportunity to host a similar group of librarians from Germany in our libraries soon, in effort to increase international cooperation.