

Final Report

for the BII Grant by the Goethe Institute for Specialist
Stay Abroad for Library Staff in German Institutions

17th to 28th October 2022 at the University
Library of the Ilia State University Tbilisi

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Report

The aim of the stay was to support the University Library of Ilia State University. For this purpose, I was in Tbilisi from 17th to 28th October 2022 as an expert in the field of research data management. Thankfully, this was made possible by a BII grant from the Goethe Institute for professional stays abroad for library staff in German institutions. This is the final report on it.

One focus of this support in Georgia was the training of different groups of people at Ilia State University. This was especially true for the librarians at the university library. After arriving on 17th October, the first task was to clarify which topics would be addressed and what levels of knowledge had previously been acquired. The following two days were then focused on these trainings. All librarians at Ilia State University were invited. The preparations and also the implementation of this two-times three-hour event took place on site at the campus.¹ The aim was to give the colleagues an initial overview of the broad subject area of research data management. Many aspects were new, e.g. data management plans. At the same time, other topics were already common practice, e.g. dealing with metadata schemas. The joint exchange was very enriching.

In addition to establishing knowledge about research data management, another focus of the stay was to support the development of an institutional research data policy. This echoes the trend in the US and Europe of funding agencies increasingly asking for an institutional RDM. Of course, this is also increasingly affecting Georgian scientific institutions, which of course apply for third-party funding worldwide. Hence, there has always been discussion and exchange with various stakeholders at the university on possible aspects of a possible RDM policy.²

On 20th October, I had the honour of attending a conference at the university library. It was entitled “Time for Action: the challenge of contract cheating” and was about different plagiarism attempts by students at Georgian universities.³ The event was organised together with Turnitin, an internet-based plagiarism detection service. It was aimed at all universities in Georgia. This event was particularly interesting as it made it clearer to me, what kind of issues are currently being discussed in university education in Georgia (and how similar they are to German discourses in some cases).

This day was followed by preparation for another training session. Because on Monday 24th October, a whole session for PhD students was scheduled. This session was open to all PhD students of Ilia State University and provided a generic overview of RDM topics and relevance for prospective researchers.⁴ In addition to general information, the focus was on concrete assistance that the scientists can implement in their everyday research work. At the same time, the aim was to create awareness for research data management under the PhD students.

¹ The slides from this event are available here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7215201>.

² In the end, this also resulted in a presentation of its own: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7223795>.

³ <https://library.iliauni.edu.ge/en/working-meeting-time-for-action-the-challenge-of-contract-cheating/>.

⁴ The slides from this event are available here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7225466>. Here is the public invitation: <https://library.iliauni.edu.ge/en/research-data-management-seminar-for-doctoral-students/>.

In addition to this concrete work and training at Ilia State University, I also tried to understand the science policy discussions and academic practices. For example, on 20th October I attended a book presentation at the Ligamus bookshop, which is located directly in the university building. There, the German scientist Caroline Funk from Bochum presented her research under “Implementing Global Norms for Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia” on IDPs in Georgia since the Russian occupation of 1993.⁵

Two exhibitions I visited in Tbilisi were similarly exciting. First, the Max Planck Society, together with the Goethe Institute, presented an exhibition on current topics within science. The exhibition was set up at Ilia State University and was open to the academic public.⁶ There, the main focus was on current developments on and around humans and their environment. I visited also another exhibition at the Goethe Institute Georgia. There, first-person documents of persecutes and victims of the Stalinist purges were presented as part of an exhibition. The presentation was largely based on the archive of the persecuted Russian NGO Memorial and SovLab, a Georgian NGO focusing on Georgia's Soviet period.

One of the highlights in terms of local exchange was the invitation to the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. Besides a guided tour through the venerable buildings and the magazines, the exchange with Emzar Jgerenaia as Director of the Department of Science, Culture and Civil Education was particularly enjoyable. This was about their exciting use of Citizen Science approaches in enriching historical photographs with metadata. This mediation work is already established and is widely received by the Georgian population. Facebook is used as the technical platform, partly because of its wide reach. In addition, there was a longer discussion about concepts and strategies for the digitisation of historical documents. This is because the NPLG assumes central responsibility for the whole of Georgia and coordinates many national tasks and developments.

Finally, another focus was the work on library micro services. One tool outputs all items with metadata associated with Ilia State University using the ROR⁷ as the affiliation identifier. It is written in Python and uses the DataCite's REST API. With Mybinder, it can be used immediately and without much technical setup.⁸ The other tool is also a Jupyter notebook. This can be used to create bibliometric evaluations for Ilia State University. Python is also used to address DataCite's REST API. The script then provides different tables for statistics as well as different graphics for visualising different questions. In addition to a concrete added value for the library colleagues, the aim was also to show which techniques are used in Germany in the digital field for library issues.

On a personal level, the stay was positive in many ways. Above all, of course, it was the exchange with Georgian colleagues. The daily cooperation was a great pleasure and always enriching. It was interesting and at the same time refreshing to see which topics are already being discussed. Significantly more than I expected. At the same time, it was equally satisfying that I was able to help concretely with some points and position the topic a little more in the internal university discussion through a certain public visibility. For me personally, of course,

⁵ <https://anthro.iliauni.edu.ge/en/book-presentation-durable-solutions-challenges-with-implementing-global-norms-for-internally-displaced-persons-in-georgia/>.

⁶ <https://iliauni.edu.ge/en/siaxleebi-8/gonisdziebebi-346/interactive-exhibition-universummenschantelligenz.page>.

⁷ <https://ror.org>.

⁸ <https://mybinder.org/v2/gh/yvgrossmann/DataCite-ROR-Parser/ISU>.

it was also a great opportunity. Through the various trainings, I was able to further practise my skills in teaching but also in finding solutions. In addition, the use of the English language over two weeks was very positive and helped a lot in the further practice of library vocabulary in English.

I would therefore particularly like to thank the BII and the Goethe Institute for their great support for this opportunity.

Documents

Pictures taken during the Stay

- Pictures taken during the ISUBII22 Stay at the Ilia State University, CC BY Share Like 4.0, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7329449>
- Facebook-Posts by the University Library of the Ilia State University, https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02dD39THvYPx5V2Mux7Gh9v1CaA7ENBGubjivUr7E3TLcixCJXVfu8e9yXbAdNic7BI&id=247471189931
 - These images are available in higher resolution here: <https://keeper.mpg.de/d/68405525ff624aea8464/>. These pictures can be used for the publication of the report; this has been agreed by the University Library of Ilia State University. Copyright is “University Library of Ilia State University”. The contact person is Mr. Giga Khositashvili (giga.khositashvili.2@iliauni.edu.ge).

List of Output

<https://zenodo.org/search?page=1&size=20&q=keywords:%22ISUBII22%22>

Publications

- Research Data Management in Libraries, Training Material, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7215201>
- Research Data Management – A Short Introduction for Researcher, Training Material, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7225466>
- Research Data Policies – An Short Overview, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7223795>

Software

- DataCite-ROR-Parser for the Ilia State University ROR-ID, Jupyter Notebook, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7243699>, <https://mybinder.org/v2/gh/yvgrossmann/DataCite-ROR-Parser/ISU>
- DataCite Value Parser for the Ilia State University, Jupyter Notebook, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7257106>, https://mybinder.org/v2/gh/yvgrossmann/DataCite_Value-Parser/HEAD

Social Media

- <https://twitter.com/hashtag/ISUBII22>