

A professional Visit Report

TO

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Library (KIT-Bibliothek)

Universitätsbibliothek Regensburg

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BY

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Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Library (KIT-Bibliothek)

I had obtained an overview of the library system, mainly at the **service areas** and I have visited department libraries as follows:

- Campus South:
KIT archives – Public Library – Circulation Section – Acquisition – Information Services – Collection Management.
- Campus North:
Good scientific Practice at KIT – Research data Management

My overall layout was concentrating on the reference service, and the information literacy instructions.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT):¹

Universität Karlsruhe (Karlsruhe University) was established in 1825 as a polytechnical school (Polytechnische Schule), it was one of the first German speaking university, in 1885 was declared as a technical school, and in 1967 it became a full university, finally it became Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in 2009. The name was inspired by the Massachusetts institute of Technology (MIT).

KIT-Bibliothek:

Was founded in 1840. It has a books stock of over 2 million volumes included in natural and engineering sciences, the libraries are working 24 hours a day, a policy that was implemented in 2006., with two main branches; Campus south and campus north.

Campus South:

The library works 24 hrs. a day, it offers workplaces for university students and reading areas with relaxing spots. My visit focused on the followings:

¹ <https://www.kit.edu/kit/english/history.php>



Campus South

KIT Archive:

Overview:

- **Shelf Capacity:** 10,500 shelf meters.
- **Annual Budget:** 80,000 euros.

Archiving Practices:

- **Patent Documentation:** Includes archiving patented documents.
- **Update Cycle:** Documentation archiving is updated every 10 years to ensure accessibility for future generations.

Digital Archiving System:

- **DIMAG:**

The system was Developed for the digital archiving along with the state archives in Germany, to ensures the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital records, and handles extensive metadata to describe, manage, and retrieve digital archives.

Provides a user-friendly interface for accessing and searching digital archives, integrated with other national and regional digital archive systems to create a cohesive archival network. The system is designed to handle large volumes of digital data.

Archiving Software:

- **FAUST 10:**

A comprehensive archiving software used for managing physical and digital records. Provides solid cataloging tools for organizing and describing archival material, By using the advanced search capabilities to easily locate records within the archive, and manages user permissions and access levels to ensure security and confidentiality.

One of the merits of using Faust 10 that its Compatibility with other archival and library systems, and generates detailed reports on archival holdings and activities.

I had the privilege to Meet with the DIMAG team, who provided insights about the project that has taken large resources of the KIT archive since the summer of 2018, it's the research center's photo inventory, which was taken at the central photo office between 1956 and 2006. An insight of 50 years of German nuclear research and advanced science. Specifically, the Karlsruhe nuclear reactor which it was dismantled in the early 60s.



KIT-Archive Team

Acquisition and Cataloging:

The acquisition and cataloging department at KIT Library is responsible for developing and maintaining the library's collection to support the research and educational needs of the KIT students and researchers. The department ensures that the library's resources are recent, relevant, and easily accessible.

The library uses a patron-driven acquisition model, where user interactions with online resources can trigger purchases. For example, if three patrons click on an online text from a provider like EBSCO, the library automatically purchases the book. The benefits from that system is to ensure that the library's collection reflects the immediate needs and interests of its patrons. And avoids unnecessary purchases by focusing on materials that patrons actively seek.

Open access license management is influenced by student needs at Karlsruhe University. KIT Library supports the publication of open access journals, the expenses are up to 4 million Euros. The expenses are freely shared based on the cost transparency rules.

Circulation:

The borrowing process is based on how recent the publications are. New publications are to be found on the open shelves and older publications will be found at the closed stacks section. The circulation process is automated from the self-issue terminals, KIT Library considered to be the first in Germany to issue the self-service return machines.

Students can borrow publication for a period of 4 weeks.

Information Literacy Instructions:

Since COVID 19 the KIT-Library was depending on the E-learning methods, such as ILIAS platform to deliver information literacy instructions. The ILIAS sessions are free to subscribe to, making these valuable resources available to a broader audience.

The online resources are ruled by good research practice, for any science project the student learn how to conduct effective and ethical research

Process:

1. Students participate in an online module that is available for free.
2. Students are required to read a specified article as part of the module.
3. After reading the article, students complete a quiz to ensure they have engaged with the material seriously.

As KIT is a member of the TU9 association, a group of leading technical universities in Germany.

KIT has achieved system, enabling it to self-accredit its study programs, the KIT has an excellent in-house quality management system in studies and teaching, The accreditation, valid for six years, reduces costs and enhances the flexibility and efficiency of maintaining high educational standards.

[KIT - KIT - Media - Press Releases - Archive Press Releases - PI 2014 - KIT Is Granted Right to Accredite Study Programs](#)

Reference Management:

The KIT-Library offers support for reference management to help users organize and cite their sources. The library provides guidance on selecting the right reference management program, benefits such as saving time, ensuring accuracy, and maintaining consistency in citations.

Programs recommended include Citavi, EndNote, Mendeley, and Zotero, each with unique features suitable for various needs. The library also offers workshops, training sessions, and personal consultations.

Reserving Workspaces

Individual and Group Reservations:

- **Individuals:** Can reserve workspaces up to 3 days in advance.
- **Groups:** Group workstations can be reserved up to 14 days in advance.

2. Online Seat Reservations:

- Introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic and still in use, this system allows patrons to reserve seats in the reading area online. This is particularly effective during exam periods when the library becomes very busy.

3. Workstations for Researchers:

- The library offers workstations specifically for researchers, the staff offers the Pomodoro technique, a time management method that involves working in intervals.

4. Nominated Days:

- The library has nominated "boys stay" days and "girls stay" days to ensure a comfortable and productive environment for all patrons.



Group workstation



Reserve space sign

Project BMBF

The BMBF project led by Dr. Steffen Burk focuses on evaluating scientific performance using the DORA (Declaration on Research Assessment) system. This approach emphasizes qualitative over quantitative metrics, aiming to improve the transparency of research assessments. By integrating research data repositories with institutional research information systems, the project supports making research data more accessible and reusable, aligning with FAIR principles.



with DR. Steffen Burk and Ms. Tanja Oberacker



Campus North:

Serves the needs of researchers, students, and staff. It plays a crucial role in supporting the university's scientific community by providing access to a vast collection of resources, both physical and digital.

Office for Good Practice and Ethical Principles:

dedicated to promoting and ensuring ethical standards and integrity in research and academic activities. This office plays an important role in transparency, and ethical conduct within the institution.

It provides advisory services to researchers, faculty, and students on issues related to research ethics, including guidance on ethical dilemmas, and compliance with ethical standards.

The office serves as a mediator and conflict resolution body, addressing concerns related to ethical issues in research and academic conduct. It provides a confidential platform for reporting and resolving ethical violations.

Project AUPAEU:

KIT-Bibliothek is part of the University Partnership for Acceleration of European Universities (**aUPaEu**). This project, funded by the European Commission, aims to create a shared digital space for stakeholders to access and contribute to acceleration services. Key goals include developing methodologies for research and innovation, deliver matches platforms, supporting open science, and enhancing societal outreach. The platform focuses on integrating resources, providing coaching services, and engaging with various stakeholders to promote long-term transformation in higher education institutions.

The project started in January 2023 and will end in December 2027.



In the Camp North Library



*with Mr. Michael Anger head of project
(aUPaEu)*

Other Libraries in Karlsruhe “one day visit”:

Badische Landesbibliothek

The Badische Landesbibliothek (BLB) is a major regional library in Karlsruhe, serving as the state library for Baden-Württemberg. It holds a collection of over 2.8 million media, including rare manuscripts, historical prints, and modern digital resources. The BLB specializes in regional history, literature, and music. The library offers services such as research support, digitization projects, educational programs, and cultural events.



with Dr. Fischer at the BLB

Stadtbibliothek Karlsruhe

The Stadtbibliothek Karlsruhe is a dynamic public library serving the local community with a variety of resources and services. It features modern facilities including a kids' library, digital tools, and educational programs.

- **Information Literacy Sessions:** Offers sessions for users aged 60+ on internet usage.
- **Technology:** Includes a 3D printer for educational and creative projects.

Highlights

- **Robot Guide:** Features a humanoid robot that assists visitors.
- **Tablet Station:** Allows borrowing and returning tablets easily

kids' library

- **Press Reader Access:** Kids can explore a variety of newspapers and magazines.

- **Educational Programs:** Tailored sessions and activities aimed at enhancing digital literacy and creativity.
- **3D Printer:** Encourages hands-on learning and innovation through technology.



At the Stadtbibliothek with the robot Pepper

University Library of Regensburg

I began my visit to the University Library of Regensburg on June 24th for five-day exploration. I focused on the services provided.

Collections and Resources:

The library was founded in 1967, collection includes over 3 million books and media items. It provides access to numerous electronic resources, including e-books, e-journals, and databases. Special collections include historical manuscripts, rare books, and regional literature.

Services:

- **Information and Reference Services:** Assistance with research and information retrieval is available both in-person and online.
- **Interlibrary Loan:** Facilitates access to materials not available within the library's own collection.
- **Study Spaces:** Offers various study and workspaces, including quiet study areas, group study rooms, and computer workstations.
- **Workshops and Training:** Conducts workshops on information literacy, research strategies, and the use of library resources.
- **Digital Services:** The library provides digitization services and has an extensive digital collection available online.
- The library is open to both university members and the public, offering extensive hours of operation.
- **Signs:** for the first time I noticed that all the signs are in German and English, to facilitate on foreign students

- Digitalization Projects: The library is actively involved in digitizing its collections to enhance accessibility and preservation.
- Regensburger Bibliotheksverbund: A local library network that collaborates closely with the University Library of Regensburg for resource sharing and joint initiatives.



borrowing system



Reading Area

Notable Services:

- Printed Books on Demand: The Regensburg Press offers a unique service where users can request printed books on demand.
- Research Data Management: The library provides comprehensive support for managing research data.
- Online Reservations: Users can reserve books and study workstations online, making it easy to plan their library visits.
- Scanning Services: Books can be scanned and saved onto a USB drive, providing convenient access to electronic versions.
- Thesis Printing: The library offers a thesis printing service for their researchers with modern designs and attractive covers.
- Manual Book Return System: Unlike many modern libraries, the University Library of Regensburg does not have an automated book return system. Users must return books physically or place them in an automated locker for later collection by a librarian.
- I had a great opportunity to attend a regular staff meeting at the KIT-Archive section, the team were so nice that they conduct the meeting in English, I gained a new perspective on how the meetings in Germany works.



Automated Redieving Books Lockers



Designed Theses Covers

Special Highlight:

The Regensburg Classification A unique feature of the University Library of Regensburg is the Regensburg Classification system. This systematic classification scheme organizes the library's vast collection into easily navigable categories. It aids users in locating materials efficiently and understanding the interrelations between different fields of study. The classification system is a testament to the library's dedication to making academic resources accessible and user-friendly.

Conclusion:

Throughout my visits, the common thread was the commitment to innovation, user engagement, and academic support. Each library had its unique strengths and special features, yet all shared a vision of enhancing accessibility and providing the best resources to their patrons. This experience has offered invaluable insights and inspiration that I am eager to bring back and implement in my own professional practice at Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Moreover, I wanted to shed light on another point:

All the libraries I visited were not equipped with an air-conditioning system, to overcome the new climate conditions; with the rise of temperatures caused by the global warming. The reading areas were not convenient enough under the hot weather.

Finally, I would like to thank the BII for supporting me throughout the visit and offer me a unique opportunity, not only to overview library services but also sharing experience about German communities.