European integration: conditions and challenges for libraries, 3 au 7 juillet 2007
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Who will Take Over the Libraries of the New Europe?

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Who will Take Over the Libraries of the New Europe?

Henryk Hollender
Lublin University of Technology
Outline

The New Europe and its Importance
Welcome to the Library Scene
Popular Library Cultures
After the Rush
Adequacy of Library Education
LIS Graduates in the Profession
LIS Graduates in the Profession: Second Thoughts
Women’s Work
Managerial Models: Beliefs, Folklore, Reality
The Leader for the Action
What Can be Started Anew
European Enlargement

Source: http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/
The New Europe and its Importance

- „The enlargement...” of what?
- Economies, migration, markets
- Intelligentsia and middle class
- Common goods: town, printing shop, public library
- Indicators of scientific output going down
- Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and the consequences of common history
Welcome to the Library Scene

- This is where the East of Eden is (Androvič 2002)
- „Przegląd Biblioteczny” paper (2007)
- The cult of books and libraries
- Children as the only reading public? (Poland)
- Information technologies:
  - Late coming, avoiding some errors?
  - „Automation is the answer, but what is the question?” (Borgman 1996)
- Imports and repetition: trends, services, products, complaints
- Similar or different? The case of digital repositories (see next slide)
Institutional Repositories Indexed by Scientific Commons...

|            |            | CEU Business School Electronic Archive  
|            |            | Policy Documentation Center  
|            |            | Research Support Scheme  
|            |            | National Library of Czech Republic - Digitized documents  
| Finland [7] | Poland [13], but not... |  
| France [31] | Portugal [6] |  
| Germany [76] | Slovenia [1] | ePrints FRI (Faculty of Computer and Information Science)  
| Italy [29] | United Kingdom [92] |
Popular Library Cultures

• The town, the gown, and the stereotypes:
  ▪ Librarians: What do you do out there?
  ▪ Honourable Curator and Madame la Bibliothécaire
  ▪ Student wisdom: order, check out, copy, return...
  ▪ Managers, Money, Mother Brussels

• Public libraries: civilisational competence vs literary salon

• Academic libraries: every student her own book

• Professional advancement, years of service and continuing education
After the Rush

• Those brave old days early nineties
• Gone leaders
• Library automation: what it was and how has it gone out of fashion
• The coming of the Digital Age (with its own crew)
• Public library in a wealthy democratic state: plenty of everything
Adequacy of Library Education

• Chorzów discussion, 1994: will libraries retrain their own staff?
• Well-established degree programmes at universities in several NE countries (Juznic & Badovinac 2005)
• On the origins of LIS degree in the 1950s
  • Formal education in the Soviet world
  • Knowing the old libraries as a tool for managing the new ones (cf. the story of Aleksander Birkenmajer and the Warsaw University)
• Frantic curricular adjustments vs tradition
• Scholarly (lack of) communication?
LIS Graduates in the Profession

- In quest for adequate curriculum
  - J & B revisited: a list of courses is NOT A PROGRAMME. What makes a programme?
  - Discipline oriented vs student oriented (problem oriented etc.) programmes
  - Bologna process: what do you mean, colleagues?
- LIS degree not so important for the career?
- News from Poland: LIS postgraduate diploma indispensable for promotion
- Operational, day-to-day work turns librarianship into drudgery
- Knowledge of the practitioner
LIS Graduates in the Profession: Second Thoughts

- Towards anthropology of the library
- Library career: attractive and prestigious?
- No „changing of the guards” after the Fall of communism
- Immigration and transfer of services
- Populism, politics and the lack of standards

Prospect for change in an aging society (see next slide)
Crude Birth Rates for Selected Countries

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Source: http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004395.html
Women’s Work

• Generation „1200”: a case of oppression or equal pay employer?
• Jobs for Women, Ltd.: obedient, scrupulous, quiet
• Family translated into the library
Managerial Models: Beliefs, Folklore, Reality

- Manager form outside of the profession: benefit? Danger?
- Library directors: leaders or rear runners?
- „Lack of data, lack of attention” issue (Renaud & Murray, 2003)
- Our director...
  - Is only to control us
  - Looks good on TV
  - Has her own little acre at the Library
- Vacancy: library director? Not much competition!
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What Can be Started Anew

• New library legislation, standards, quality assurance
• Energetic lobbying and lawmaking
• Imagine you manage only by projects and task teams
• Promotion for successful project completion
• Let’s globalize the profession
Thank you for your attention!

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