

Agenda Setting for the New Digital Libraries



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Libraries = Open Access

- Open access to the variety and richness of media
- Open access to the world of information and knowledge
- Open access to a public space of learning and cultural events
- Open access to social and political participation

Libraries are threatened by

- Budget cuts
- More and more expansive sources of high quality information
- Commercial content
- Dependence of big business and big policy
- Censorship and disinformation

Libraries are

- A symbol for the significance of education
- A place of equal chances and for compensating social differences
- A place of integration and intercultural understanding
- A place of democracy

A short history of Public Libraries

- P.L. are a product of enlightenment: „Learning makes the genius bright“ (1741)
- Early beginnings in the 18th century in the USA (B. Franklin) and UK as community libraries with subscription system
- Since 1850: Public Libraries, financed by taxes, Carnegie libraries in English speaking countries
- Middle Europe: Open shelves libraries as product of American re-education after 1945

The Library of Today



A library combined with an
underground station
A library between urban
motorways



Urban intervention – The library supports

- Higher standard of security
- Higher pedestrian frequency during the day
- Stimulations for private investments
- A new Gürtel marketing
- Exchange of different social milieus and cultural practices
- Impulse for integration of immigrants



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The content

- A large selection of holdings: books, newspapers, magazines, multimedia, databases, internet
- Advisory service: 5 helpdesks
- Net of different rooms and places for blended learning
- Cultural center: readings, book presentations, exhibitions, theatre plays



The wide range of Multimedia

- 240 000 books
- 60 000 items
- 40 audio- und video stations
- 78 internet PCs
- 38 OPACs

Creating places and ways of learning

- Events for kids: readings, computing
- PC work stations – cooperation with further education
- Learning room for groups
- University of agriculture goes public: lectures about plants, insects or garbage
- Book presentations
- Service for elderly people



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Success in the City

- An „agora“ for urban residents to gather and to communicate in a non-commercial area (intellectuals, young families, elderly people, immigrants)
- „Cross selling“-effects between user groups of different institutions
- Focus on low educated people, supported by change of image, appealing design and services





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Cultural activities

- Readings with focus on intercultural exchange, usually in cooperation with booksellers, NGOs, foreign cultural institutes, other departments of the city
- Exhibitions, conferences
- Cinema, music events on the roof
- Kids theatre festival: Lesofantenfest



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Two years after opening users and loans

- 3000 visitors daily
- 800 000 users each year
- 6000 loans daily
- 3,5 mio loans in two years
- 59.000 new registered readers



The Library of the Future



Different types in discussion

- The Hybrid Library: A combination of the traditional physical library with the electronic, digital library with its connections to information all over the world
- The Teaching Library: Not all information is relevant for the users. Information as „difference that makes a difference“ (Gregory Bateson)
- The Internet Library: inquiry and delivery services

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Rapid changes in technologies create

- A need for a new organisation and workflow for new services and new content
- A need to develop short-term solutions
- A need to train the aging staff in new skills and services
- A need for new cooperations between libraries and other institutions

The digitization of books and materials

- E-Journals
- E-Databases
- E-Mail-List-communication
- Digitization of books
- New forms of publications and learning:
the process of understanding

The challenge of the Internet

- The Internet in competition/addition to the traditional tasks of libraries
- Comfort and speed of internet use as model and frame work for the future of information society
- More and more dominating role as information provider
- Interactive, interdisciplinary, worldwide