



From the “Digital Library” to the “Personal Web Library”

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History of the Badia Fiesolana

- Probably location of the first Christian church in Fiesole
- Romanesque façade stems from 12th Century
- Main part of Badia was reconstructed in the 15th Century
- Financed by Cosimo de Medici
- At end of 15th Century: Badia became a meeting place of “excellent and lettered men”



Mission of the EUI

- “..to contribute... to the development of the cultural and scientific heritage of Europe... This aim shall be pursued through teaching and research at the highest academic level”.



The EUI library

- Focused on research in the social sciences
- 550 post doctorate students, 50 full time professors, fellows, visiting professors
- Operates with an international user community (professors and research students). Links with many institutions



The EUI Library

- is a perfect place to make full use of electronic resources
- combining this with a well selected collection of monographs,
- providing personalised services, and
- creating an environment of personal interaction and support



Tilburg university library

- In eighties: a “regional” university with a not very prominent profile
- Currently: no. 1 university in the Netherlands
- First University in Europe with coherent vision on the future of the library
- Digital library is asset for the university



Library vision 1989

- Library and Computing Centre should support process of information production and information consumption
- Information should be accessible from the desktop
- Integration of information resources
- Library should become a documentation, information and communication Centre



Success factors digital library at Tilburg University

- clear vision on the future
- support from top management of the university
- co-operation with computing centre and various departments
- co-operation with other parties: libraries, vendors, publishers
- competent staff and a well-balanced management team



Change and the digital library

- Universities are more engaged in the process of teaching, learning and research
- Co-operation between libraries is developing fast
- Resource sharing
- Organisation of the library is gradually changing
- Libraries provide support to electronic publishing



Involvement with teaching, learning and research

- Library staff provides instruction to faculty and students
- Development of tailor-made services in close cooperation with faculty
- Development of Web based instruction
- Co-operation with respect to “Internet libraries”, “Web sites”, subject oriented “Virtual libraries”



Some consequences of Consortia developments

- Centralisation of the acquisition policy within university
- Trend is: no selection, but access to all journals of the big publishers
- Consortia are harmful if they only focus on licensing (Landesman and van Reenen)



Consortia licensing and resource sharing

- Many libraries have access to the same information sources (journals, E-books)
- Decrease of distinction
- Need for specialisation



Impact on organisation and staff

- Significant savings can be realized in cataloguing, acquisition, ILL, shelving, circulation, and space
- but we are still in a transitional phase
- and new tasks are coming up
- ‘Electronic only’ is still not ‘the rule’



Support of electronic publishing by researchers

- Is an international development
- Many initiatives world-wide (Highwire, SPARC, Open Archives, Roquade, etc)
- Conference on Scholarly Communication and Academic Presses at the Università di Firenze
- Libraries are playing an important role in these developments



Is the library becoming invisible?

- Various traditional activities require less staff
- Subject specialists move to the departments
(again)
- Collection development decisions are being
centralized



Still a role for the library

- Competence of librarians and core function of libraries are still valid and badly needed
- Still key role in user support and in the organisation of the information overload
- In this area libraries meet with publishers and agents



Publishers policies

- Process of mergers
- Aggregators in stead of subscription agents
- Packaging/Combining “content” and “tools” (Elsevier Science, Lexis Nexis, Science Server, Endeavour)
- Only one publisher claims “to create the largest database of scientific information and the largest scientific network”
- Publishers agreed on CrossRef,
- but disagree on a variety of other key issues



Approach of Dutch University Libraries

- National deal with Elsevier en Kluwer
- Fundamental discussions on Web publishing by universities
- Universities are producers of information: should be made accessible for teaching and research
- but we are still prepared to pay for added value



Dutch agreement

- electronic access to all titles
- five year agreement
- low fixed price
- joint experiments on changes in distribution and business models
- Involvement of university leaders



Discussions with university leaders

- Support the creation of Document Servers and E-publishing initiatives
- Change copyright regulations in University contracts
- Fight unreasonable prices and conditions
- Consider possibility to stimulate authors not to publish with “unreasonable” commercial publishers
- Strengthen international co-operation on these issues



Library strategy with respect to publishing/publishers

- make core journals available electronically (fair licenses)
- identify unreasonable price increases, inform faculty, and stimulate cancellation (if appropriate)
- support e-publishing by own researchers
- stimulate debates on copyright
- intensify co-operation with other libraries on these issues
- explore new models for co-operation with publishers and agents



Strategy EUI Library

- Strengthen our position as a top class Library in the social sciences
- To be the premier gateway to high quality information on European issues: supporting the “debate on Europe”
- Personalization: supporting our users to create their “personal Web library”