



**International
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Associations and
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Section V
Social Science
Libraries**

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Oslo 2005:

***Evidence Based Librarianship: A case study in
the social sciences*** organized by the Social Science
Libraries Section.

15th August, Monday, 8:30 – 10:30

Programme:

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Head of Knowledge & Information Sciences, Public Health
Resource Unit, Oxford, UK

Andrew Booth

Director of Information Resources and Senior Lecturer in Evidence
Based Health Care

Information, University of Sheffield, UK

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Abstract

Evidence based practice began within healthcare but has recently migrated to such fields as social work, education, and human resource management. It involves applying results from rigorous research studies to professional practice in order to improve the quality of services to clients, customers and users. Familiarity with these methods has caused an increasing number of information professionals to turn a critical eye to their own practice. Evidence Based Librarianship aims to increase librarian skills in reading, interpreting and applying their professional research literature. This session provides a practical introduction to evidence based information practice, in order to equip participants with the skills required to practice evidence based practice in their workplace. A scenario, based on the social sciences, is used to identify evidence in support of a library management decision. Concepts such as formulating focused questions, understanding research design, and critical appraisal are applied. Library and information staff need to consider, and plan for, some practical steps that could be taken to introduce the concept of evidence based practice in their workplaces.

Paper Text Available at:

http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/111e-Brice_Booth_Bexon.pdf

Feature Articles:

New Library Combines Social Sciences at Oxford University

The plans for a consolidated social science library began as an idea from the Social Studies Faculty and the Libraries Board. Martin Ceadel (currently a Curator), Mark Philp (currently Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations) and Laurence Reynolds (Secretary to the Libraries Board) worked together with Liz Chapman (then Librarian of the Institute of Economics & Statistics) to create a new post of 'Social Studies Librarian'. This would manage two site libraries, one on George Street and another on Manor Road, thereby saving money as well as improving services to readers. Of course, being cautious, the post was only 'Acting' in case there was a need to abandon this radical idea. When Liz became the Taylor Librarian, the post was advertised without the word 'acting'.



October 2002
View from the original Economics Library across the new site as it is cleared; the St Cross Building (English and Law Libraries) is on the left

Margaret Robb took up the post in May 1997. That year, the Institute of Economics & Statistics became the Economics Department and both the library and department moved next door to the newly built Phase 1 Manor Road Building. Economics stock from the Social Studies Faculty Library was moved into the newly named 'Economics Library', thus releasing sufficient growth space for a few more years in the George Street Library for Politics, International Relations &

Sociology. One year later, the Social Policy & Social Work Department asked for their library to be included as part of the Social Studies Libraries management structure. What is important about the creation of the Social Studies Libraries was that it was initiated by the academic departments and was supported by the new Director of OULS, Reg Carr.



More and more senior staff were asked to work across three libraries. This made it increasingly easy to harmonise procedures and policies across the libraries and make sure the reclassification to Library of Congress was being done in a systematic and similar fashion. It also meant that the Librarian was not alone in having to move between three libraries and two offices—and not alone in rejoicing when, twenty-four months ago, funding for an extension to the Manor Road Building was confirmed

'We were exceptionally fortunate that the Social Science Division was given money to extend Manor Road,' says Margaret Robb. 'The money came largely from the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF) and the University, but we did some fundraising too. The Division wanted to put at the heart of the new building a new-style social science library. As Librarian I was involved from day one with the Head of the Division as project sponsor for the entire project. I was ably assisted by colleagues in helping to develop and design the present flagship library.'

Electronic Resources in Ukrainian Libraries

Olena Pogrebna, Head of Parliamentary Services Department, Ukrainian NPL

From June 20-22, 2005 the Center for Global Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign organized "Global Studies in Higher Education: A Conference on Research, Curricular, & Collaborative Opportunities." The third day of the conference was devoted to library and information professionals. The opportunity for joint teacher and library faculty interaction was provided in the morning sessions. The afternoon sessions included a panel discussion by three international librarians. Individuals from Poland, Russia, and the Ukraine, demonstrated and described projects that have been undertaken in these geographic areas to provide greater access to information. The presentation highlighted here is that done by Olena Pogrebna, Head of the Parliamentary Services Department of the Ukrainian National Public Library in Kiev.

Pogrebna described the following major projects in development at the UNPL.

- A Bibliographic Index of articles from the research paper collections was begun in 1995. Currently, the project can be found at <http://www.nplu.kiev.ua/ec/stt> where 290,000 bibliographic records of articles exist. The materials come from research institutes, research congresses and conferences and include works in the humanities, social sciences, natural science and technology. The database is searchable by keyword, author, title, personal name, and truncation and a help function are also available.
- A Multi-subject bibliographic index of articles from Ukrainian newspapers and journals was begun in 2002 and now holds about 80,000 records. This resource can be accessed at <http://www.nplu.kiev.ua/dbtw-wpd/dio.htm>. The content of approximately 500 Ukrainian newspaper and journal titles have been entered and there are about 9,000 links to full text located in online archive of Ukrainian periodicals. This database is searchable by keyword in all fields, full-text, abstract; personal names, geographical names, corporate names, author, title, corporate author, source title (with the list of titles covered found in a drop-down menu), date of publication, and date added to the database. The search engine provides a Boolean search, truncation, and a help function.
- Another database, Politics and Politicians in the Mirror of Ukrainian Periodicals was begun in 2000 and can be found at <http://www.nplu.kiev.ua/dbtw-wpd/cuprc.htm>. This resource has more than 100,000 records from 150 central and regional newspapers and journals on politics. Over 20,000 records have links to full-text articles.

- Search forms are interlinked. First, a multi-subject bibliographic index with additional search by political party is provided. The researcher is then allowed item selection from a subject list
- “For A Librarian” online provides links to reference and resource tools at <http://www.nplu.kiev.ua/uk/profy/index.htm>. The latest news for and about librarians in the Ukraine can be found through links to the websites of major regional libraries. Current information on, and full-text of, the library legislative and regulatory documents is available at this site. In addition, librarians can access fast e-mail reference service for their questions. The Calendar of Remarkable Dates and Anniversaries can also be found at this site.
 - Lack of national standards for the creation and exchange of information
 - Lack of cooperation and coordination among Ukrainian libraries
 - Financing woes
 - Inadequate library school training
 - Aging staff
 - Poorly developed information and communication structure in the Ukraine

These are the same problems faced by the majority of the world’s libraries today, but the library in the Ukraine has persevered and found ways to accomplish the task of developing these unique and useful projects. The projects in development by other librarians in the transition countries also point out the richness of their collections and allow the world to use the information found there.

Challenges noted by Pogrebna include:

Library History Seminar XI: Libraries in Times of War, Revolution, and Social Change, October 27-30, 2005, at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Steve Witt
Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

The theme chosen for the conference, *Libraries in Times of War, Revolution and Social Change*, is a particularly timely one in terms of recent history. Events such as the pillage and burning of Iraq's National Library in spring of 2003 have sent cultural shock waves around the world. The apparent contradictions of libraries, traditionally taken to represent stability and continuity, and wars and revolutions, which involve rapid and disruptive change, suggest a number of urgent historical questions.

Relevant topics, issues, and concerns include:

- Books and libraries as agents of cultural memory to be protected, appropriated or obliterated.
- Library and archival collections and services as instruments of political power in providing,



restricting or withholding access to information.

- Libraries and their contents as cultural heritage and as booty.
- Libraries as places of refuge, solace and practical help in times of war, revolution and social disruption.
- The responsibilities of the international community in creating and enforcing policies and procedures for the protection, recovery, and repatriation of cultural artifacts, including books and libraries.

Paper sessions featuring scholars from seven countries will focus on the histories of library collections and services in the context of particular conflicts, populations, eras, and geographic locations.

Jacques Hellemans, Treasurer of the Social Sciences Standing Committee of IFLA will provide a plenary paper based upon his experiences in re-building libraries in the Congo.

Keynote speakers from North and South

America, Europe, and Asia will examine and discuss historical and contemporary libraries in times of social crisis and violent dislocation. What happens in such times to an institution that symbolizes and facilitates intellectual, social, and cultural continuity? This approach offers a new kind of lens--and focus--for artifacts and events of the past that have heretofore been disregarded, minimized, or met with deliberate silence. The international scholarship presented at Library History Seminar XI represents an important step toward making this knowledge available to a wider audience. In addition to the LHSXI venue, a selection of conference papers will be published in future issues of *Libraries & Culture*.

For further details, please visit the conference website at:

<http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/conferences/LHS.XI/>

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