Libraries and Library Networks at a Crossroads

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Libraries need each other

- To make efficient license agreements
- To create and maintain a good regional, national and international information infrastructure
- To solve big problems (archiving reserve collections, digital preservation)
- To have a strong political voice (copyright, VAT, budgets)
More cooperation possible and required

- Declining demand for services libraries were built for (print collections, cataloguing, lending, reference work)
- On their own libraries cannot meet user expectations in the time of Google, iPads and mobile devices
- Pressure on libraries from universities and funders: Cost reduction, Efficiency, Value for money
- Cloud based services are becoming available

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Cloud-based services

- Network access to applications and services running on remote servers.
- Cloud-hosted versions of back office Library systems and discovery tools are being developed.
- What is currently managed locally can be managed through collaborations among institutions or by external (commercial) organizations.
- Applications can be added by libraries and other organizations.
- Opportunities to combine services from different platforms and vendors.
- But the proof of the pudding will be in the eating.
Cost reduction and efficiency

Positive experience with
- Shared cataloguing
- License agreements by consortia or national agencies

We could do more
- To reduce unreasonable costs of commercial journals by more national and international cooperation and advocacy
- More active stimulation of open access and repositories
- Combining licensing with demands for Open Access
- Joint acquisition of Library Systems and other applications
- Outsourcing
Evolving Library Networks

- Networks that started with joint cataloguing have extended their role (OhioLink, GBV, Pica, Bibsys, ABES etc.)
- Networks that started with licensing have also extended their role (Fin-Elib, Heallink, ANKOS, CBUC, etc.)
Norway

- Bibsys has provided its in-house developed ILS for many years
- Traditional library management systems do not fit anymore in today’s environment
- Will move in 2013 to Web-scale Management Services (WMS) from OCLC using services from the cloud
- To be used by > 100 libraries
- Bibsys is reporting to the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research
Finland

- National Library Network Services is hosting library software for the various libraries in the country (Voyager, Metalib, SFX, EnCompass, DSpace)
- Public Interface of the National Digital Library will not be based on a commercial solution but on Open Source: VuFind
ABES (France)

- New goals in strategic plan 2012-2015:
  > Be a metadata hub for digital research information
  > Role in Current Research Information System
  > National licenses
  > Offer libraries to support them in acquiring new back-end systems of the next generation
- ABES is working under the Ministry of Higher Education and Research
The Netherlands

- Research libraries cooperate very well on National Catalogue (GGC), ILL, Licensing, Current Research Information

Strategy for near future:

- Create National Repository Infrastructure
- Joint development of online services (Management, Curation and Storage of Research Data)

* No national cooperation on back-end and discovery systems
Centralized purchasing authority essential in deriving savings from Library Consortia: truly substantial savings require a greater degree of both financial and organizational centralization, as well as a larger membership than is typical with most consortia.

Universities are planning to share an increasing number of resources and back-end systems among institutional partners in the near future.
Germany

- At this moment a colourful picture of solutions and approaches in the 6 library networks
- Harmonization and collaboration with respect to systems and major changes has been limited so far
  - Innovations and progress have been stimulated strongly by the DFG
Joint recommendations of the WR and the DFG (03.02.2011)

- Enormous capabilities of the 6 networks should be used better
- More coordination required
- Integration of catalogs and services
- Coordinated service development (based on open architecture) for the whole country
- Steering Committee
- Financial resources remain at same level
- Savings through collaboration > Innovative services
- Changes will be stimulated by Förderprogramm DFG
The Universities and the University Library

- Are networks and consortia taken over the tasks of the university library?
- What will be the role of the university library?
Wissenschaftsrat stresses the role of universities in the development of the information infrastructure.

- Information competences
- Retrodigitization/Cultural heritage
- Support of virtual learning and research environments
- Open Access
- Research data
Wrap-up Bielefeld 2009 on Infrastructure

- Lack of interoperability (applications, data, services)
- Interoperability requires more standardization
- E-Infrastructure needed for data curation, archiving, preservation and access
- EU Strategy: Creating an European Scientific Data Infrastructure with e-Science Digital Repositories
Wrap-up Bielefeld 2009: eResearch

- Combining information, identifying relations, sharing and re-using scientific data, sharing computer power, data analysis, connecting people, cross-disciplinarity
- Repositories can play major role in this area
- Open Access will become the rule, also for data

>>The link with the role of the library is still not very clear! It is time to focus on these issues and embed our services in research practices and needs
The role of the University Library

- Development and production of publications, of research data, research environments and E-learning modules start at the workplace of researchers, teachers and students.
- Libraries can play an important role in this.
- Opportunities to leave many back-end and front-end services to network organisations/trusted organisations and concentrate on these key issues.
Transfer of tasks to other organisations

- Are libraries ready to outsource some of their traditional services?
- Are libraries ready to transfer some decision making power to a trusted party?
- This change will only work with
  - Excellent interaction and communication
  - A decision making process with clear rules and control mechanisms
  - Quality performance guaranteed and carefully monitored
Final remark

(Open) access to great digital content, management of E-research infrastructure and efficient library management require national and international cooperation.

Research libraries can play an important role in their institution and make a difference for their students, researchers and other users.
Thank you very much

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