

# 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

# 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

# Report of the University Leadership Council in the US: “Redefining the Academic Library” (2011)

- 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**

a.o. on

- 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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