

A Successful Collaboration - the Project for the New Building of the University Library in Sibiu

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Dear President OPREAN, dear Rector BONDREA, dear President SCHAAL, dear Prof BANCIU, dear General Director Dr. MOTOC, dear Dr. Rodica VOLOVICI, dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, I'd like to thank you for inviting me to the – in the meantime - “4th.*International Conference on Information Science and Information Literacy in Romania*”. It's a great pleasure to be a guest in the beautiful city of Sibiu once again and it is a great honour that our university, the University of Bayreuth, situated in the North of Bavaria, is involved in the organisation of this event. This is not only a demonstration of the close ties of friendship between our institutions. It is also a symbol for the partnership between them. A Memorandum of Understanding which includes a Twinning Declaration between both university libraries has already been signed by Bayreuth and is on its way to Sibiu. I am very much looking forward to the future cooperation between our two universities.

A lovely little story can be told about how this cooperation came about. I will tell you the beginning, then Rodica Volovici will take over and continue the tale.

My connection with University LB was established in October 2006 when the former President of the University of Marburg, Prof. Dr. W. Schaal, who was President of University LB until 2012, asked me to support him in his efforts to build a new university library in Sibiu.

I knew Prof. Schaal from committee meetings, which I took part in as deputy director of the University Library of Marburg. He knew about the great interest I am

taking in the design of library buildings / in how library buildings have to be designed/constructed to fulfill the demands such an institution has to meet.

At first Prof. Schall showed me some photocopies of the *skeleton construction* / unfinished building which was designated to house the university library. Those were admittedly not very illuminating. It became clear very soon that it was necessary to take a look at the conditions on site in Sibiu. On the 19th November 2006 Prof. Schaal took me to a country that was completely unknown to me. During this first four-day visit we not only had the chance to get to know the construction site and the local conditions. Most of all it was a great delight to meet our nice colleagues here in Sibiu who were very committed to establishing the new library. There was Rector Prof. Oprean, who eagerly supported the project. And there was last but not least General Manager Dr. Motoc, who not only put heart and soul into the matter but who also took care that the project could be finished without causing any financial difficulties for the university.

My part in the project of building a new university library was to provide information about how organisational as well as architectural questions concerning library buildings were discussed in Germany.

In the course of our conversations with the university management it became obvious that they also wanted a paradigm shift:

The great number of small department libraries which were scattered all over campus should be united under the roof of one library building with centrally organised processes, such as acquisition, cataloguing and uniform modalities for the library users.

Moreover, questions of how to present the holdings of the library needed to be discussed as well as the formation and composition of new teams amongst the members of staff, who would be working together under the new roof.

As you can see, the demands on the project “A New Library for the LBUS” were rather high. Moreover, it had to be discussed how library buildings have to be constructed in order to meet future requirements, for example:

- Libraries as locations for learning,

- the “digital revolution” and its implications for the library, such as the “hybrid library”,
- or just being able to ensure the longterm availability of conventional media.

As you can see, taking all these aspects into consideration, makes for a rather complex challenge. Therefore, we decided to take a look at different library building projects in Romania and Germany and to discuss the individual approaches with those responsible for the project. I would like to hand over to Rodica now. She will tell us more about this and the completion of the Sibiu University Library and also show some pictures.