

“Government libraries in Greece: current situation and future considerations”

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Presentation Overview

- **Introduction**
 - Aim and objectives
 - Scope and Greek reality
- **Methodology**
- **Results**
- **Conclusions**
- **Recommendations and next steps!**

Introduction

Presentation of:

Monopoli, M. and Mastora, A. (2012) “Government libraries in Greece: current situation and future considerations”, 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Helsinki, 11-17 August, 2012.

Libraries face and have to deal with

- Increased need of information and research
- Increase of information – especially in digital format
- Libraries = access and content providers
- Budget reduction – material and staff

Introduction: Aim

Contribution to the collaboration of Greek government libraries as a way to satisfy user needs

“Co-operation and networking among government libraries are tasks of paramount importance for government libraries to meet the needs of the twenty-first century”

Two methods of collaboration

- Shared cataloguing (union catalogues)
- Access to co-operative collections, like databases or electronic resources

IFLA Professional Report No 106

“Guidelines for Libraries of Government departments”, Bolt and Burge (2008)

Introduction: Objectives

Data collected for each library

- Profile (aims/objectives, target group)
- Collection (subject areas, format, languages, material enrichment, access to databases/Internet, use of integrated library system)
- Facilities (reading room, photocopying, scanning, photographing)
- Collaboration with other libraries
- Networking cataloguing co-operation potential

Introduction: Scope and Greek reality

We investigated the Greek government libraries

- Ministries (15) and Secretariats (50)

We communicated with the Hellenic Statistical Authority

- Statistical data until 2008 for nine (9) libraries

We focused on three (3) out of nine (9)

- Own a website
- Have organised their collection via an integrated library system
- Have library regulation published on their website

Methodology

Towards developing either a union catalogue or a co-operative collection we collected detailed data about the libraries through

- Articles/ reports (references)
- Statistical data from Hellenic Statistical Authority (until 2008)
- Interviews with library staff and directors
- Libraries' official websites

Results

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Profile

- Support the mission of each organisation
- Target group: staff of the organisation, library employees, students, researchers, staff of other ministries and libraries in general, general public

Collection

- Special subject areas in conjunction with broader subjects; each library owns some unique material
- Variety of formats (books, CDs/DVDs, maps, photos, reference books, newspapers, journals, rare books...) and languages
- Enrichment through donations mainly! Few purchases for some of the libraries
- No access in subscribed databases (at least none that the employees knew of back then)
- Use of integrated library system (one in DOS)

Services

- Reading room (photocopying, scanning, photographing facilities)
- Free Internet access

Collaboration with other libraries

- Unofficial collaboration with other libraries, mainly academic, and organisations
- Staff wish for a more organised collaboration scheme to facilitate access and establish sound professional relationships

Results

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	Library 1	Library 2	Library 3
Cataloguing rules	AACR-2	AACR-2	AACR-2
Classification	Yes (custom) English and Greek	National library of Greece authorities and keywords	Custom
Arrangement of collection on the shelves	DDC based	DDC based	UDC based
Metadata schema	UNIMARC	UNIMARC	UNIMARC
Web OPAC	Yes	Yes	No
Character set metadata	(Not known)	UTF-8	(Not known)
Client-server protocol	Z39.50	Z39.50	No

Results

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Data from interviews with Directors. They:

- prefer current, historical and technical data
- specify two valuable sources of information: Internet and personal contacts with other colleagues
- have unofficial collaborations, but support official collaborations
- are interested in digitisation (ongoing projects)
- support user studies in order to understand the real needs of users

Conclusions

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Libraries:

- have rich, valuable and **unique** collections
- satisfy the needs of **different users**
- have **unofficial collaborations**
- have **no access to databases**, although there is a need for
- enrich their collection mainly via **donations**

Conclusions

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- Library staff are willing to support the establishment of
 - **shared cataloguing** (minor adjustments needed, some libraries can lead this establishment)
 - **co-operative collections** through joint agreements to save money (consortium)
 - Best practices already exist, like the HEAL-link consortium including mainly Greek Academic Libraries providing access to scientific journals and other resources

Recommendations and next steps!

- Continuation and completion of the description of all Greek government libraries
- More support from the parent organisations for the establishment of more official methods of communication
- Organisation of and participation in symposiums, workshops or conferences

The lack of official collaboration until now should be identified as a **motivation** rather than a limitation

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Thank you for your attention!

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