“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:


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

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

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)
Results

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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<th>Library 3</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Results

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

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

• 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.

Thank you for your attention!

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