

# **“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**
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# 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)



# Results

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

*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. Available at: <http://conference.ifla.org/past-wlic/2012/193-monopoli-en.pdf>*

Thank you for your attention!

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