Librarians as Technology Experts: Libraries and IT Projects

Internet Librarian International 2014, London (UK)

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Overview

- The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
- The KIT Library
- Projects at the KIT Library
- Project openTA
The KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

- founded in 2009
- merger of Karlsruhe University and Research Centre Karlsruhe
- part of the Helmholtz Gesellschaft
- 5 campus locations
- approx. 24,000 students
- approx. 9,000 employees
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The KIT Library in Figures

- budget for acquisition: 4.5 mio €
- holding: 1.8 mio items/media (90% science & technology)
- 1800 work places für users
- average number of visitors per day: 5.000
- 120 staff
- 24/7 opening hours
IT @ KIT Library

- 1988 OPAC
- 1992 client-server based cataloguing system (KARIN)
- 1994 client-server based ILS (OLIX)
- 1996 Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog (KVK) - meta catalogue of Germany's library holdings
- 1997 local document scan & delivery service (LEA)
- 1997 text file repository (EVA)
- 2001 video file repository (DIVA)
- 2004 open access electronic university press (today KSP). Today largest Univ. Press in Germany
- 2005 OPAC based on search engine technology swish-e (XOPAC)
- 2006 first library in Germany with 24 hour full service
- 2006 recommendation system for library catalogues
- 2012 Registry of Research Data Repositories (re3data)
- 2013 guidance system showing free learning places for students in Karlsruhe
# Free Learning and Working Places

Current Overview of Free Learning and Working Places in the Libraries of KIT, University of Applied Sciences and TheaBib. The values are re-loaded every five minutes.

[Mobile Version of this service: http://m.bibliothek.kit.edu/](http://m.bibliothek.kit.edu/) - New in the Overview: DHBW Karlsruhe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location and Library</th>
<th>Free and Occupied Seats</th>
<th>Update</th>
<th>Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KIT Library</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KIT-Bibliothek Süd, 3. OG (N) Lesesaal Geisteswiss.</td>
<td>Seats in total: 164</td>
<td></td>
<td>24/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIT-Bibliothek Süd, 2. OG (N) Lesesaal Technik</td>
<td>Seats in total: 192</td>
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<td>24/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIT-Bibliothek Süd, 1. OG (N) Lesesaal Wiwi. und Informatik</td>
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<td>KIT-Bibliothek Süd, EG/1. OG (A) Lehrbuchsammlung</td>
<td>Seats in total: 72</td>
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<td>24/7</td>
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<td><strong>Campus South:</strong> Special Libraries etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fachbibliothek Chemie (FBC)</td>
<td>Seats in total: 193</td>
<td>39 min. ago</td>
<td>Mo–Fr 9–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lernzentrum am Fasanenschlösschen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mo–Fr 7–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultätsbibliothek</td>
<td>Seats in total: 90</td>
<td>14 min. ago</td>
<td>Mo–Fr 9–20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
bwDataDiss infrastructure for describing, storing and linking research data and electronic thesis
Project openTA

- funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for an initial 2-year period (Oct 2012-Oct 2014)
- 3 KIT partner institutes
- for and in cooperation with the Network Technology Assessment (NTA)
- 1 FTE from the KIT Library; plus 2 trained librarians at partner institute ITAS
Goal

„Developing a web portal¹ based on service-oriented architecture² for the TA³ community⁴.“

- 1: web portal => www.openTA.net

- 2: architecture => Liferay portal software, widgets, search engine technology (ElasticSearch), automated content acquisition (RSS, ics...)

- 3: TA => Technology Assessment = „(...) a scientific, interactive, and communicative process that aims to contribute to the formation of public and political opinion on societal aspects of science and technology.” (Wikipedia)

- 4: community => Network TA (NTA) in Germany, Austria, Switzerland
openTA Services

- community calendar
- member directory
- news aggregator
- database of bibliographic information
- blog
- information on TA
openTA Concepts

- open
- centralized
- portable
- automated
- community-driven
Technology Assessment

- nanotechnology
- renewable energies
- stem-cell research
- electromobility
- sustainability
- robotics
- nuclear waste
The Librarians‘ Tasks in the Project

RESEARCH

COMMUNICATION
- review
- evaluate
- test
- develop
- provide input
- SUPPORTING user community

- EXPLORING options for cooperation

- PROMOTING the services

- PRESENTING findings
The Wider Perspective: Useful skills for librarians active in IT-projects

- understanding of all aspects of metadata
  - bibliographic, multimedia, research data …
- ability to communicate with computer experts and programmers
- design of classification systems (content-related and formal)
- experience with user behaviour in the context of online search tools
  - design of user interfaces
  - indexing of data
- experience with all kinds of licensing issues
  - copyright, open access, authentification
Conclusion

IT specialists ↔ subject specialists

librarians

- the new roles for librarians are based on traditional skills:
  - indexing of data
  - communication skills
  - design of information systems
  - anticipation of user's needs
Thank you!

Any Questions?

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