

REVIEW

AN INSIGHT INTO *ETHICS IN SCIENCE AND CULTURE*
The International Scientific Conference, Belgrade,
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The University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology has hosted eight international scientific conferences in last nine years. Traditionally the conference is held at the end of September or beginning of October, and also traditionally many institutions, foreign and domestic take part in its organization. Besides Faculty of Philology, Emporia State University (USA), Hacettepe University (Turkey), University library 'Svetozar Marković', Belgrade City Library and Matica Srpska Library (Novi Sad, Serbia) took part in organization of this year conference. Valuable help in organizing this year conference was given by U.S. Embassy, Belgrade, Goethe-Institut, Belgrade, Ministry of Science and Technological Development and University of Belgrade. Professor Aleksandra Vraneš was a central point of organizational activities regarding this year conference, very much the same as she was for previous conferences.

This year conference was held at The Faculty of Philology Hall of Heroes where 28 speakers kept high attention of audience for two days. Opening speech titled *Short notes on the relationship between ethics, science and culture* was given by professor Slobodan Jankovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education. Two days of conference program locked audience and speakers in constant interchange of thoughts and ideas regarding ethics in science, culture and most of all in libraries.

An insight into specifics of this conference will be given by means of short interviews with two guest speakers Ms. Margo Bargheer and Mr. Brian Rosenblum. Ms. Berger is a head of the Department for Electronic Publishing at The State and University library of Göttingen and is actively promoting Open Access initiative. Mr. Rosenblum is a Scholarly Digital Initiatives Librarian at the University of Kansas Libraries,

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where he has administrative, production and outreach responsibilities in support of a variety of digital initiatives and scholarly communication activities.



Interview with Ms. Berger

A.S: How did you find out about this conference and how did you decide to participate?

M.B: The Goethe-Institut of Belgrad, represented by Bettina Radner, has kindly invited me to give a talk on Open Access at the conference. I couldn't find anything on the web about it. Although it was hard to manage my business and family affairs to afford a 4-day absence I decided to come to Belgrad. One reason is certainly cultural curiosity as I have never been to former Yugoslavia before. Another reason was that my library is very active in promoting Open Access and I felt the need to share some of our experiences.

A.S: Please tell us more about your library and university.

M.B: The State and University library of Göttingen is one of the largest research libraries in the German speaking world. It provides services for approximately 23,000 students and has close cooperations with the Max-Planck Society. The library is known for its fine historical collections, its special subject collections such as forestry, anglo-american history, pure mathematics and others. The library runs one of the two German digitisation centres and is partner in several national and international research and development projects. The research and development topics cover retrodigitisation, electronic

publishing, information infrastructure and e-humanities. Statistics for the library can be found at www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/ebene_1/wir/stat/stat_2008.html.en

A.S: What is your main responsibility in the library?

M.B: I am a head of the Department for Electronic Publishing where I work with 17 colleagues. We run services for the university such as the support for the university's Open Access policy, the university press, the digital repository and electronic thesis repository. These services are accomplished by several funded research and development projects on Electronic Publishing.

A.S: How would you describe possibilities for authors to publish in OA journals at your university?

M.B: In order to open new possibilities of accessing information for scientists and students Goettingen University supports open access publishing activities. SUB Goettingen underpins this process by contracts of cooperation with publishing houses, in order to relieve the authors from financial obligations and to secure central and economical fund distribution. Contracts have been struck with following publishers: BioMed Central, Copernicus Publications, New Journal of Physics and Springer-Verlag. Contracts with Nucleic Acids Research, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences are in preparations.

A.S: Please share with us your visions of scientific information access and of academic librarianship in the future.

M.B: Scientific communication is undergoing a fundamental change. Not just has the Internet changed the quantity of scientific information and enhanced the speed of communication, but this technology is changing the way research is conducted and will in the long run effect human cognition and value-system. Free flow of infor-

mation is a prerequisite to use this technology in a peaceful and positive way. However, as free flow of information is in contradiction with the aggressive profit-maximizing we will face more conflicts over rights to access content. I see the role of librarianship in negotiating the needs of different stakeholders in the scientific information value chain while at the same time pursuing the interest of the public and defending common goods from further commercialisation.

A.S.: What are your impressions about this conference and your visit to Serbia?

M.B.: The conference in Serbia has been very inspiring for me. Germany certainly has one of the most advanced library systems in the world which is embedded in a functioning democratic society. Working on Open Access in Germany has reached a high level of sophistication thus allowing us to ponder on – even minor – technical challenges such as automatic key-word extraction. In this approach the cultural and social consequences of implementing new technologies in the field of science sometimes move out of sight. Therefore I am deeply impressed by Serbians I have met who have to overcome different challenges when it comes to supporting the scientific system. It seems that many well informed and highly educated academics dedicate their energy to move the scientific system in Serbia into the future.



Interview with Mr. Rosenblum

A.S.: How did you find out about this conference and how did you decide to participate?

B.R.: I was invited by the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade to participate as a guest speaker at the conference. I participated in library conferences

in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2006 and 2008, and am very interested in learning more about libraries in this region, so when I got the invitation I accepted right away.

A.S.: Please tell us more about your library and university.

B.R.: The University of Kansas is a mid-sized, public research university in almost the exact center of the United States, with about 30,000 students. Our library system has about 4.5 million volumes. More information on both library and university can be found at www.lib.ku.edu and www.ku.edu.

A.S.: What is your main responsibility in the library?

B.R.: As a “Scholarly Digital Initiatives Librarian” I work with faculties across campus to help develop digital projects and publishing activities. In particular, I help promote KU ScholarWorks, our institutional repository, and work with faculty journal editors to help them put their journals online. More information on what I do can be found at <http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu> and <http://journals.ku.edu>.

A.S.: How would you describe possibilities for authors to publish in OA journals at your university?

B.R.: The University of Kansas has been active in promoting OA for a long time. We launched our institutional repository in 2005, and we have helped put several journals published by our university online. In addition, we are working with several faculty members to help publish their scholarly monographs online. Our most significant recent initiative came in May 2009, when KU became the first public university in the U.S. to pass an institution-wide open access policy. Over the next year we will be working to implement this policy to make all scholarly articles published by KU faculty openly available online.

A.S: Please share with us your visions of scientific information access and of academic librarianship in the future.

B.R: The rise of Internet-based publishing can facilitate the worldwide distribution of scholarship and thus help to spread and increase the impact of research and knowledge on a global scale. Open Access is a publishing model that embraces this potential of the Internet to make scholarship available with minimum barriers to any user worldwide. Since the mission of academic libraries is to connect users with information, academic libraries should be looking at how we can support such models and make information more affordable, accessible and open.

A.S: What are your impressions about this conference and your visit to Serbia?

B.R: This was my first visit to Serbia, and for me it was a great opportunity to meet new colleagues and to learn about the issues and challenges for libraries here. I was very impressed with some of the activities here, particularly with regard to open access publishing of scientific journals. I think the challenges that American and Serbian librarians face are similar – our greatest challenges are not the technical problems, but working through organizational change and established behaviour patterns. The Serbian librarians I met were wonderfully engaged and fantastic hosts, and I look forward to the chance to return in the future.