

# Summary



## City of Peace and Human Rights / Nuremberg Offers an Interesting Fringe Program – Protection for Persecuted Authors (Martina Mittenhuber)

(pp. 270 – 275)

During the tightly packed four-day long program of events at the 104th German Librarians Conference to be held May 26-19, 2015, in Nuremberg, the occasional diversions may be quite welcome. In the Franconian metropolis the supplemental program of tours and talks is particularly worthwhile. Nuremberg is the city of peace and human rights. In this article the head of the city's Office for Human Rights provides an overview of the most important historical venues, museums and documentation centers.

Nuremberg has left three widely visible footprints to history. It is solidly anchored in our collective memories as one of the centers of the medieval Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and as one of the metropolitan centers of the industrial revolution of the 19th century. Yet no other era of German history has left as deep a mark as the years 1933-1945. Along with the National Socialist Party Rallies and the inhumane racial laws passed in Nuremberg in 1935, the city also gave its name to the war trials of leading figures of the Nazi regime.

Well aware that a responsible confrontation with the past cannot take place without drawing the proper lessons from these historical events and without transforming these lessons into a modern and future-oriented course of action, the city has created a documentation center on the former grounds of the Nazi Party Rallies and a memorial to the Nuremberg Trials. These two venues of remembrance and education about the past are, moreover, sites for democratic education and immunization against misanthropic posturing.

Even today the huge architectural remains of the former Nazi Party Hall on the south side of Nuremberg bear witness to the megalomania of the National Socialist regime. The eleven square kilometers were once to become a monumental site for the NSDAP's self-glorification. Since 2001 the never-completed north wing, which was to become a National Socialist congress hall holding 50,000 people, has been the site of the documentation center.

## The Library of Alexandria and the »Arabelion« / During the Arab Spring the Library of the Coastal City of Alexandria Became a Stronghold of Freedom. It Has Survived the Battles - so Far (Haike Mekinhardt)

(pp. 298 – 302)

Largely unnoticed by the general public, a special anniversary was passed over in the late autumn of 2012, the 10th anniversary of the Library of Alexandria. The fact that no ceremonies took place in Egypt was mainly due to the turmoil to which the library had been exposed in recent years. It was repeatedly affected by the fall of the Mubarak regime and the Movement for the Renewal and Modernization of Egypt.

At the time the Library of Alexandria was opened in October 2002, the rule of Mubarak regime was unchallenged. The library's opening was only possible because the international community enthusiastically supported the idea of resurrecting a modern sister to the ancient royal Library of Alexandria.

Though its rooms can hold between seven and eight million items, this number is far from being reached. Even though the number of volumes held has nearly tripled to 1.5 million, the library remains far from its goal of becoming a comprehensive universal library. A look at the acquisitions for 2012 shows how difficult the situation is. A total of 3,300 monographs were added to the collection, but the children's book section, for example, acquired only 24 books. Compared with previous years there is also a notable decline in the number of visitors. In the year 2011-2012 the Alexandria attracted about 730,000 visitors, less than half the 1.5 million annual visits made before the revolution.

Now the library is preparing to face the future. It is positioning itself again with new strength as a center for education. A wide range of courses, extensive open access classes, a library book-bus, and cooperation with the »Encyclopedia of Life« contribute to this effort.

## Fast, Inexpensive, Informative / Feedback Tools on Library Websites – An Evaluation of Digital Materials Offered by the Stuttgart Municipal Library (Melanie Padilla Segarra)

(pp. 304 – 307)

In the past two years German publishers have seen the eBook segment of their total sales nearly double. Libraries have responded by expanding their own selection of online media. The Stuttgart Municipal Library contracted a student project in which users were asked to evaluate the newly designed online service, the »eLibrary.«

In 2011 the city library's new homepage went online and lent out digital media for the first time. In the meantime there are more than 74,000 eBook loans per year. And online visits to the library via Internet have risen from three million in 2003 to more than 34 million in 2014.

For the new design, the library team developed the following hypotheses about online services which the user survey was to verify or falsify: (1) Single items in the »eLibrary« are not used at all; (2) There are items which are used regularly (at least several times a month); (3) Items are used primarily for leisure-time activities; (4) Users were not yet aware of individual sub-categories of the online service; (5) Additional or different sub-categories of service would make sense.

184 people took part in the survey. The results show that some services within the eLibrary are used only seldom. This finding is particularly important when products had to be purchased from the library budget. Since the survey was not representative, it should not be used as a basis for deciding for or against any particular service or item. However, the results do call for a more in-depth evaluation. If the library believes in the quality of an item or service, it would make sense to implement a marketing campaign for lesser-known products. Services for which the library is itself responsible can be improved and expanded through customer feedback.

*Translated by Martha Baker*