# Summary

### Libraries in the Digital World / Online Services are Expanding Rapidly and Easily Accessible – Copyright and Licensing Agreements as Barriers (Frank Simon-Ritz)
(pp. 398 – 401)

Particularly in modern university libraries there is a strong trend toward digitalization. Already in 2010 the German Library Statistical Survey calculated that university libraries were then spending about one-third of their budgets for electronic media. Taking both university and polytechnical libraries into account, the acquisition expenditures increased from about 230 million Euros in 2000 to about 264 million Euros in 2014. This represents an increase of about 13 percent over 14 years.

In the same time period the proportion of expenditures for electronic media within acquisitions budgets exploded, from about 12 million Euros in 2000 to 116 million in 2014, i.e. quadrupled in those same 14 years. This trend has meant stronger changes within libraries that it may appear at first glance. In light of the opportunity to access digital media remotely – not only within a library's buildings – and regardless of opening hours, university libraries are taking a new look at the role of the library as location. Digital content is available round the clock, 7 days a week. In the physical world this can only be an option for a very few libraries.

The significance of digital content has also increased dramatically in public libraries, despite problems, such as enabling access to eBooks. To deal with such issues, cooperation and networking with other educational and cultural institutions is playing an ever greater role.

### Cataloging the Swissair Photographic Archive Through Crowdsourcing / 40,000 Photographs Digitalized by Former Airline Employees and Experts (Nicole Graf)
(pp. 414 – 419)

In 2009 the library of the ETH Zurich acquired the Photographic Archive of Swissair, an airline that ceased operations in 2002. The archive consists of about 220,000 photographs taken in the period between 1910 and 2001. Many of the pictures had only rudimentary captions; often the location and year were missing, as well as the identification of the type of aircraft, building, event, activities, or individuals. It was hoped that this missing information could be supplied by former employees of the airlines by means of crowd sourcing.

To start with, individual photographs were inventoried in order to record the collection in its entirety. Afterwards it was decided to digitalize only a portion of the collection. All of the oldest photographs, black-and-white medium-sized negatives from the »propaganda department« from the 1930s, were digitalized; but in the case of the later photographs, the black-and-white small-camera negatives after about 1970, a selection had to be made.

Starting in December 2009, 200 photographs were uploaded online every Thursday for Swissair retirees to view. The available metadata (title, photographer, date) were also shown. Former employees could add notes in an additional, unformatted information field.

This crowdsourcing project was completed at the end of 2013, at which time 40,000 photographs were published on »e-pics«, the ETH's Image Archive. Compared with other open and anonymous crowdsourcing projects, the resulting knowledge transfer of this relatively small group of experts, who shared a strong interest in preserving and sharing the history of »their« airline, was remarkably large.

### The library of things / What Role Do Libraries Play in the »Sharing Economy«?
(pp. 439 – 441)

Libraries, which have long been part of a tradition of sharing and exchanging, are now in a position to take on a new function. With its »Library of Things« the library of the Goethe-Institut in Bratislava has taken the first daring step in this direction.

Since April 2016, in addition to lending German-language literature, music and games, the library has begun to lend out 50 useful things which fall into the categories of experiments, outdoor activities, and workshops. These include mainly items which an individual does not need on a daily basis and often does not own, whether it be sewing machines, telescopes, electric drills, or over-sized toys for children's birthday parties. In order to facilitate learning about the proper use of these things, introductory workshops about the individual items are also offered.

The goal of the workshops is to provide a means for information, knowledge and skills to be passed along among individuals in this circle of users, and thus to promote a sense of neighborliness and community. A central idea within this project is also the aspect of community building. The Goethe-Institut and its library is thus transforming and modernizing the social principle of exchanging and sharing.

Parallel to these activities in Bratislava, the Central State Library in the Amerika-Gedenk Library in Berlin also lent common tools and objects through its »Leih-Bar«, though only for a limited trial period. Both libraries have found it valuable to exchange information about their experiences in this new area. Right at the outset it became clear that this service offered a way of addressing new user groups. Both libraries also found that the media were interested in reporting about these projects.

*Translated by Martha Baker*