

Summary



»School 7« is »Public Library of the Year 2018« / A Milestone in Urban Renewal – Three-Year Old Library Connects Harbour with City Centre (Anita Ruder)

(pp. 116 – 118)

The Dutch library »School 7« was declared the »Public Library of the Year 2018« at the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) congress in August 2018. This is an international prize recognizing new and innovative libraries. The jury was impressed with the manner in which the library, located in Den Helder, cooperates with local partners and sets focus on social sustainability. Additionally, praise was given to the location, the building's architecture, and the manner in which the old school and the new library form a harmonious ensemble. The jury sees in School 7 a prime example of how a library of the 21st century should look.

School 7 is the headquarters of the KopGroep Libraries, an organisation of 18 libraries located in the northern part of the Netherlands. When it opened in April 2016 it was an important milestone in urban renewal in Den Helder. Due to its strategic location, the library helps connect the harbour with the city. Although the original school building of 1905 required a thorough renovation, the architects kept the old school's structure intact. Old wooden floors were removed to make the roof's wooden arches visible from within the building.

In the original school building there are now classrooms, a reading café and a small theatre. All books and other teaching materials are held in the new annex which was added behind the old school. Visitors will always be able to see the crossover between the old school and the new library. Because many of the residents of Den Helder once attended the school, it holds many memories. For this reason the building has retained its original name, »School 7«.

»It's all about living the library as a democratic place« / The New Librarian Director of ekz, Johannes Neuer, Speaks About Significant Differences Between German and American Libraries in BuB-Interview

(pp. 124 – 128)

In January 2019 Johannes Neuer became the Librarian Director of the ekz.bibliotheksservice GmbH, one of the largest library suppliers in Germany. Having worked at the New York Public Library (NYPL) from 2009 to 2018, Neuer brings his experience as an expert in the fields of marketing, customer experience and digital media to the German library world. In an interview with BuB's editor, Bernd Schleh, he cited significant ways in which German libraries differ from those in the U.S.A., where marketing, a strong positioning in society, and uncompromising customer orientation are the main focus. According to Neuer, »libraries in the U.S. have succeeded in finding a stronger position for themselves in their communities -- for example, in terms of reader recommendations, which are widely respected among the general public.« An important topic today is so-called fake news and here the U.S. libraries have established themselves as a key point of contact. »The ability to recognize whether a source is reliable is incredibly important in light of the current flood of information. Germany's libraries can surely do more in this area.«

Furthermore, Neuer takes a clear position on what qualifications librarians need to bring to their professional lives: »In my view librarians need most of all to be skilled communicators. The changes that are most evident in libraries today show we are shifting from the medium as the core of library work to people as the focal point of our activities.« Thus, he concludes, »the decisive factor is that librarians remain in touch with life and know what issues people find most pressing.«

100 Years of ZBW / The Developmental Stages of a Scholarly Library (Doreen Siegfried)

(pp. 150 – 155)

On February 1, 2019, the ZBW – the Leibniz Information Centre for Economics – celebrates its 100th anniversary and looks back upon 100 years of library history. Set up in 1919 as a small institute library with eight employees and as a department within the institute for international economics, the ZBW is today an independent foundation under public law and a member of the Leibniz Association with a staff numbering around 300, a research department and cooperation partners throughout the world.

After a long and eventful history, ZBW entered a new era in 2010. Upon the appointment of the computer science expert Klaus Tochtermann as its director, ZBW began to focus on applied research into computing and computer science, in order to ensure that the institute's infrastructure would be based on the latest scientific achievements. Since then its professors, who are associated with the Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, and an international group of doctoral candidates under the leadership of Klaus Tochtermann have been focusing their attention on the question of how the digitalisation of science is changing the processes of research and publishing. Within this area of inquiry ZBW also functions as a consultancy at the national and international level. ZBW's own research is embedded in a global network. Its primary cooperation partners are found among EU grant projects, projects of the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's (BMBF) projects, and the Leibniz Research Alliance Science 2.0. ZBW has repeatedly been the recipient of the international LIBER award for innovative library service. In 2014 it was named »Library of the Year«, a prize for innovation awarded by the German Library Association (dbv).

Translated by Martha Baker