

Summary



To Become Visible = Making Visible / Library Management Conference 2022 Online: Participants Discuss How Libraries Become More Conspicuous – and also Facilitate Their Own Visibility (Monika Weber)

(pp. 87 – 89)

For libraries to fulfil their role in society, they need to be noticed. This is best achieved when libraries actively respond to changing needs both within and without their walls. The employees of a library, after all, can ensure visibility in all its facets: for example, through diversity, talent management, open access, lobbying or social media.

This and other topics were put to discussion during the OCLC Library Management Conference which was held on 6-7 December 2022 and attended by more than 1,200 participants from public and academic libraries. At their request, the conference was livestreamed for the third year in a row, and thus completely accessible in digital format. The motto of the conference was »Becoming visible! – Putting libraries into perspective«. Moderator of the two-day event was the library consultant Andreas Mittrowann. Keynote speaker was Gunter Dueck, a German philosopher who writes about educational issues and, as a researcher and as the spouse of a librarian, has a close relationship to issues of librarianship.

The common thread running through the two-day programme was the topic »visibility«. Lobbying, actively countering fake news, using social media, or providing safe and warm spaces in times of crisis – there are numerous ways and means to raise the visibility of libraries and their clientele. All these fields of action have one thing in common: they don't just happen on their own. It is necessary to be actively engaged in making libraries visible. All presentations given at the conference can be found online at www.bibliothekskonferenztag.de.

More Than Trash and Little Bees / Children's Libraries as Part of a Network of Early Childhood Education in Sustainability (Susanne Brandt)

(pp. 102 – 106)

A children's library: its location can be reached easily and safely. Access is barrier-free. First eye-catcher in the room is the »growroom«, a cosy cave with plants and aromatic herb boxes, designed to encourage reading and listening. Scattered around it are flexible and diversely usable elements that enable the presentation of media as theme islands in a way that attracts users' interest. The collection of items is notable for its linguistic and cultural diversity. So much for an imaginary children's library.

Important for the goal of education for sustainability and for the design of a children's library is that it provides the opportunity to move about and interact, to take part in shaping and creating things at various levels, to use of all one's senses, to experiment creatively, to feel encouraged to try out a variety of linguistic and cultural means of expression, to consciously include the natural outdoor environment, to facilitate playful experiences related to mobility and energy.

This is not simply about what libraries already do with their media and information, but instead about a methodically thought-out cross-sectional task. It is possible to imagine a »Network Library of Education for Sustainability« (in German: BNE), whose goal it would be to support library staff in their efforts to encourage life-long learning about how to design a sustainable future among different groups of users. In light of the commitment to and expectations for a wide implementation and development of BNE as a cross-sectional task in all areas of education, it is clear that BNE cannot succeed coincidentally. Instead, it will require intentional development, continuing education and recognition as an educational programme.

Large Scale Digitalisation in Switzerland's University Libraries / Four Libraries in Bern, Lucerne, Basel, and Zurich Digitalise Several Hundred Thousand Books in Cooperation with Google (Christian Lüthi, Daniel Tschirren)

(pp. 122 – 125)

Since 2019, the university libraries in Bern and Basel, the central and university library of Lucerne (ZHB) and the Central Library of Zürich have been cooperating with Google to digitalise a major portion of their historical collections. In September 2022 Bern's university library completed the project of digitalising 84,000 titles; Lucerne completed its digitalisation of 70,000 titles in November 2022. In 2023 Basel and Zurich have begun their follow-up projects.

During this massive project 5,000 volumes needed to be delivered to Google's Scan Center each month in order to digitalise the desired number of books within a reasonable period of time. In the case of the ZHB Lucerne, the Swiss Cooperative Storage Library in Büron (in Canton Lucerne) was the designated pick-up location, because the vast majority of rare books from the 18th and 19th century were already stored there. It was able to supply more than 70,000 volumes over a period of 14 months. Originally scheduled to begin in April 2020, the project was first delayed by a lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic.

In September 2020 the first complete shipment was ready to send to Google for digitalisation, followed by two further deliveries in October and November. Operations were again suspended during a second lockdown which lasted until June 2021, after which work could be resumed. After the final delivery of books was returned to Bern in September 2022, the operational work was completed.

Translated by Martha Baker