Trends in German Library Education (and LIS Research)

Some Questions, some Answers, and some Explanations

Presentation for the Library Research Symposium
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Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hacker
Q.: Where can we find library and information study programs in Germany‘s higher education system today?

A.: (With two exceptions) where they were found 10 or 20 years ago. But...
Ex.:
Small and very specialized library schools in Bonn (for Public libraries) and Frankfurt (for Academic libraries) were closed.

Independent institutions for LIS education found new context as departments of bigger institutions.

Diversification of LIS studies and research helps to profile the other 9 institutions.
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Prof. Dr. G. Hacker
Factors of change since 2000:

In every LIS Institution:

- Separation of study programs for Public L and Academic L ended
- Qualification of librarians as part of the public administration education ended (exception: in Munich)
- „Bologna Reform“: Bachelor und Master curricula replaced trad. 3-4year Diploma studies
- Development of individual study / research profiles, specialization and competencies of faculty.
Q.: How did the quantity of LIS students develop after the introduction of Bachelor and Master programs?

A.: Overall in Germany the figures for applications, enrolled students, and admitted students have grown.
Ex.:
2014:
New enrolments in LIS programs
This means: Every year we enrol...

850 new students in LIS BA programs
120 new students in LIS MA programs
100 new students in the postgraduate qualification MA programs, offered in Cologne and Berlin

This means: You‘ll find about...

20% of german LIS students in HU Berlin,
80% in Universities of Applied Sciences
Q.: How to describe the main differences between German universities and universities of applied sciences?

A.: Let’s try by comparing the situation at Humboldt University with HTWK Leipzig...
E.: First view: HU Berlin has a website in english
HU: Closer view:
5 Profs teach LIS 40h/w
BA program:
3 year 180 CP
(120 CP LIS + 60 CP 2nd subject and internship of 7 weeks)
+ MA program:
2 year 120 CP
+ PhD and Distance study Degree (MA postgrad.)

HTWK: Closer view:
5 Profs teach LIS 90 h/w
BA program:
3.5 year 210 CP
(required LIS specialization and internship of 1 Sem.)
+ MA program:
1.5 year 90 CP

No PhD, no MA postgrad.
New BA program at HU (since 2013):
Cross qualification IT (50%) & Information Management (50%)

Mono-Bachelor Information Technology and Information Management
- Program design
- Vocational field & qualification
- Program Schedule
- Study and Examination Regulations (2012)
- Admission Regulations
- Course Offerings at IBI / at the School of Computer Science
- Examination Dates of Summer Semester 2013
- Internships
- Academic Advice Service
- Download Forms from IBI / from the School of Computer Science
- Erasmus at IBI / at the School of Computer Science / HU Internals Department
- Contact

Program design
The Mono-Bachelor program combines courses of the Berlin School of Library and Information Science and the School of Computer Science at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in a curriculum that focuses on
New BSc. program at HTWK (since 2014): Cross qualification IT (70%) & LIS (30%)
HTWK Library and Information Science
Bachelor Program (210 ECTS-Credits)

- **3.5 years of study, with one semester of internships**
- **Core competencies:**
  Prior knowledge of the profession and experience in different fields of library and information work
- **Specialization:**
  Information cataloguing and services
  or
  Literature and media programming and services
  or
  Children’s and youth libraries
Master Program (90 ECTS-Credits)

- 1.5 years of study, with 8 weeks of internships (project work)
- Core competencies:
  Specialized knowledge of professional work organization and human resource management, of information-, media and copyright law, of strategies for digitization and long-term archiving...
  Ability of project guidance and acquisition
- Specialization (optional):
  Music libraries
  or
  Historical collections
  or
  Teaching library
In 2015:

101 years of library education in Leipzig

since 1992 at HTWK Leipzig

since 2006: Dpt. of Media and Communication
Aims of the „Fakultät Medien“ founded in 2006

- Uniform organizational structure for all programs of study
- Convergence of all media topics
  - Print
  - Publishing
  - Television
  - Radio
  - Information technologies
Bachelor and Master Programs offered in

- Library and Information Science
- Book Trade and Publishing Management
- Museology
- TV Production
- Multimedia Technology
- Printing Technology
- Packaging Technology
- Publishing Technology
Recycled Slides (Hacker, 2010)

- Analyses the topics of some 680 student research and project papers (published from 2000 to 2009)
- Seeks to compare the increasingly divergent profiles of LIS study programs and research at German universities
- Seeks to show the increasing practical relevance of these publications for different types of libraries

New signs of knowledge transfer between theory and practice? An analysis of German LIS theses and project reports of the last decade

The paper presents the results of a content analysis of published project reports and theses, which were written in the years 2000–2009 at German universities, offering study programs in the field of library and information science, and examines the practical relevance of these publications in the context of the general changes produced as well by the implementation of bologna-conform bachelor and master programs as by the evident development of individual profiles in each educational institution.

Recycled slides (2010)...

Results (all universities) 1:

Graduierungs- und Projektarbeiten in Prozent

- Diplom: 57.40%
- MA: 18.64%
- BA: 6.36%
- Projekt: 10.21%
- Magister: 4.44%
- Hausarbeit: 2.22%
- Dissertation: 0.74%
Recycled slides (2010)...

Results (all universities) 2:

Konkreter Praxisbezug in Prozent

- 2004–2005: 31.11
- 2006–2007: 40.46
- 2008–2009: 42.55
Recycled slides (2010)...

Results (sample of universities) 1:

Verteilung auf thematische Cluster in Prozent

- HU-Berlin
- HAW-Hamburg
- FH-Köl
- FH-Potsdam
- HdM-Stuttgart

Legend:
- Bestand
- Erschließung
- Vermittlung
- Management
- Typologie/Theorie
Q.: Are the trends of most important topics shown in 2010 continuing, if one analyses more recent Master theses?

A.: Yes. They obviously are. User Services and Management themes dominate the current research interests of 5-year LIS Masters and 2-year postgraduate MLIS.
Recycled slides (2010)...

Results (sample of universities) 2:

Thematische Cluster (einzelle Hochschulen) in Prozent

- Bestand
- Erschließung
- Vermittlung
- Management
- Typologie/Theorie
Master Theses at HU (2011-15) and HTWK (2010-14) in %

- Collections
- Cataloguing, Metadata
- User Services
- Management
- Typology, Theory

HU-Berlin
HTWK
Q.:
But where is most LIS research done in Germany?

A.:
A good deal of the research is not done in LIS education institutions, but in libraries – especially in bigger academic libraries.
Ex.:
This is why: DFG funding is nearly inaccessible for Univ. of Appl. Sciences
But:
DFG funded research projects are an important possibility to enlarge the resources of an academic library, for example to create new services for the research communities it is serving.
Most important funding programs:

- Acquisition and Provision
- Acquisition of Private Collections
- Cataloguing and Digitisation
- Science Communication, Research data, eResearch
DFG funded projects in 2015:

Acquisition and Provision

112

103

9
DFG funded projects in 2015:

Acquisition of Private Collections

5

7

2
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DFG funded projects in 2015:

Cataloguing and Digitisation

189 → 254 → 65
DFG funded projects in 2015:

Science Communication,
Research data, eResearch
DFG funded projects in libraries 2015:

352

176

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
So, let’s sum up some results:

- Bologna reforms have converted German library education into a quite divergent landscape of specialized and profiled study programs, with divergent job perspectives and research focus.

- There are more LIS students and graduates in Germany than 10 or 20 years ago. And there is continuous interest in applying for the different programs. Our graduates can find easily job perspectives in the library sector.

- The challenge of today: How to prepare cross-qualified (LIS&IT) future library staff.

- Most of LIS research is motivated and guided by librarians in academic libraries, funded mostly as DFG projects.

- Consequence: Research activities of LIS education institutions follow often the needs of their cooperation partners in libraries. Profs write „Handbook of...“, graduates mostly write about problems in the fields of „Management“ and „User services“.
Further reading:

Sources:
http://www.b-i-t-online.de/pdf/iwp/IWP2010-3.pdf

http://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/OCTOPUS
http://www.fbm.htwk-leipzig.de
https://www.ibi.hu-berlin.de
Thank you for your infinite patience!

Looking forward to any questions and comments...
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