



A Report For
The Professional Study Visit in Germany from 19th – 23rd November, 2018



By

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with contributions from participants

The professional visit was granted by Bibliothek & Information International (BI-International)

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Acknowledgement

Our visit to Germany to participate in the professional study visit was made possible by **Bibliothek & Information International** (BII) which is the standing committee of **Bibliothek & Information Deutschland**.

We would like to also extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. Kerstin of BI International and Ms. Hella Klauser of Germany Library Association who assisted us in co-ordinating this professional study tour. In addition to our hosts who warmly welcomed us at the various libraries; Mr. Helmut Obst of Nationalbibliothek Library of the "Stiftung Pfennigparade" (Munich), Ms. Christiane Felsmann of the German Central Library for the Blind, Leipzig, Dr. Michael Fernau, Director, Germany National Library, Leipzig, Dr Reiner Kallenborn, University Librarian of the University Library of Technical University Munich.

The delegation comprised of Ms Nekesa Winny Akullo (Uganda Library and Information Association), Mr. Eric Nelson Haumba (YMCA Institute), Mr. Emmy Muhumuza (Busitema University) and Mr. Godfrey Nabongo from Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The delegation was especially interested in how the German Library Association works and the various library services provided to special groups in the different libraries.

1.0 Introduction

Bibliothek & Information International (BI-International) is the standing committee of Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID), the Federal Association of German Library and Information Associations which promotes international professional exchange. It promotes the creation and development of Knowledge and experience through International Cooperation and maintenance contacts. The growing of Information Technology put challenges to Library and Information Professionals. Therefore to address this, BII supports foreign library and information professionals including those from developing countries. We are beneficiaries of a grant from BI-International to participate in Professional study visit in Germany from 19th – 23rd November, 2018.

1.1 Brief about Uganda Library and Information Association

The Uganda Library and Information Association is a professional organization that articulates the interests of LIS professionals in Uganda. Having been initially founded as EALA in 1957, the Association was again as a result of the disintegration of the East African Community formed as ULA in 1972 and subsequently became ULIA in 2001.

The LIS professionals encompass the disciplines of library science, information science, records, archives administration and other persons concerned with collection, collation and dissemination of information.

1.1.1 Vision

“To become a leading advocate for public’s rights to access and use of information for national development and global engagement.”

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1.1.2 Mission

To provide leadership in LIS profession in advocating for information services in support of;

- 1) National and international development
- 2) Collaborative initiatives to strengthen library and information science related communities
- 3) Public policy formulation and implementation;
- 4) Professional growth of members; and
- 5) Promotion information access and use

2.0 Libraries/Institutions visited

2.1 Day One – 19th November, 2018 – Pfennigparade Foundation Library

The delegation was hosted by Mr. Helmut Obst, the Head of the Library at the Foundation. He shared with the delegation a brief overview of the foundation and the library and its services; the library was founded in 1996 and is a combination of public and school library, it has a collection of 14,000 items and lending statistics for 2017 was at 10,257. The library has one professional staff and one assistant of voluntary year of social services. It also has 2 workstations with Wi-Fi and a web-OPAC accessed on www.pfennigparade.de/bibliothek/idex.htm. The library caters for mostly physically handicapped children. It was interesting to note that the library also hosts events mostly for children, exhibitions, theatre and music. The library also provides services to families and old people. The public library and school library are free of charge.



Mr.Obst sharing information about the Library of Pfennigparade Foundation to the delegation

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Group photo from Left: Eric Haumba, Emmy Muhumuza, Helmut Obst and Godfrey Nabongo



The delegation having a guided tour of the library facilities by Helmut Obst.



2.2 Day Two – 20th November, 2018 – Technical University of Munich Library

On the second day of the study tour, the delegation visited the Technical University of Munich Library. The delegation was welcomed by the University librarian, Dr Reiner Kallenborn who also doubles as the President of the International Association of University Libraries.

Dr. Reiner Kallenborn informed the delegation that the library has nine branches at the university campuses in Munich, Garching, Freising and Straubing. The Munich Library has over 2 million printed and electronic items, 500,000 loans, over 8 million full-texts downloads and 1.9 million library visitors each year, the university library is the academic information centre of the Technische Universität München (TUM). The Library provides services support students, scientists and university staff in their studies, research, teaching, further education and advanced training.

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In addition, it is a legal deposit and technical literature published in Bavaria is archived in the library as well. The Library provides Learning Commons and Meeting Point, Loan Services and Textbook Collections, E-book and E-journal Collections, Document Delivery Services, Information Literacy Training, Electronic Publishing and media TUM. The library also has its IT professional staff who manage the library website, databases and library management systems. The Library also hosts the faculty of computer science datasets which are stored on its servers. With data management a new concept, the library has trained its staff in basic data literacy and management to meet the growing demands in research data management. As the Library Director, he hugely minds a clear communication strategy and also team oriented working procedures which are a team as a whole, innovations in Teams, regular meetings and working environment is very crucial. About the IATUL, he informed the delegation that it's the only completely association for library directors, and much more focused on innovations within the member institutions and has a number of chapters/sections/special interest groups.



Group photo from Left: Godfrey Nabongo, Winnie Nekesa Akullo, Dr. Reiner Kallenborn, Eric Haumba and Emmy Muhumuza



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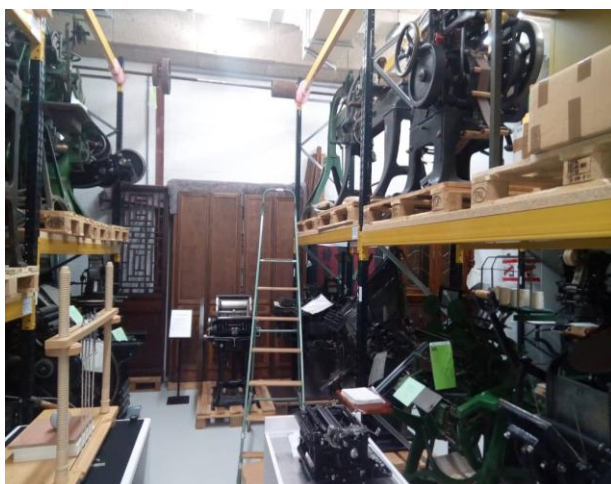
2.3 Day Three – 22nd November, 2018 – Germany National Library

The delegation had a meeting with Dr. Michael Fernau, the Director of the National Library in Leipzig. He informed the delegation that Germany has two national libraries; one in Frankfurt and one in Munich, which are both central archiving library and national bibliographic centre of the Federal Republic of Germany. They collect, catalogue and store and the media works published in Germany (and works about Germany published abroad) since 1913 and makes these available for use by the general public. The National library has a total of 30.8 million holdings in Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main. The German National Library catalogues each work in a user friendly manner, indexes them based on international standards. This permits them to be retrieved and used worldwide. It also deploys appropriate preservation measures of ensure the permanent usability of its collections. Accordingly it makes a substantial contribution to providing a stable information infrastructure for science, and for culture, both in Germany and abroad and participates actively in national and international expert organisations. It also runs the German Exile Archive 1933-1945, the Anne Frank- Shoal Library and the German Museum of Books and Writing.



From the Left Third is Dr. Michael Fernau, Dr. Andre Wendler and the delegation

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Permanent exhibition of the German Museum of Books and Writing



Dr. Andre Wendler with the participants touring the In-housing bindery

2.4 German Central Library for the Blind – 22nd – November, 2018

Ms. Christiane Felsomann also shared an overview about the German Central Library for the Blind (German: *Deutsche Zentralbücherei für Blinde*) which was founded in 1894 and the oldest library for the blind in Germany. It is a public library for the visually impaired located in the city of Leipzig, Saxony, Germany. It has a collection of 72,300 titles and considered amongst the largest in the countries. The institution consists of a lending library, a publishing house, and a research centred for barrier-free communication. It also has production facilities for braille books, audiobooks, and braille music. The DZB publishes about 250 new titles annually. The research section holds books, periodicals and monographs on visual impairment. In addition, the DZB regularly publishes 18 different journals in Braille and in audio versions. The DZB's collection includes; 21,900 Braille books, 19,000 DAISY audiobooks, 6,100 Braille music books and 5,000 scientific books and monographs on visual impairment.



Group photo from Left; Winnie Nekesa Akullo, Christiane Felsomann, Emmy Muhumuza, Godfrey Nabongo and Eric Haumba,



Production room for the Braille books and other publications

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2.5 German Library Association – 23rd – November, 2018

Before our last visit to the German Library Association Ms. Hella Klauser in charge of international cooperation at the association and IFLA Standing committee member for the management of Library Associations, organised a visit to the Berlin Parliament Library which is very rich with the publications as far way back in 1880s. The library primarily serves the Berlin Parliament. It mostly has collection of specialist literature in printed form in fields relevant to political and parliamentary work.

After the meeting at Berlin Parliament library, the delegation visited the BI-International Office and thereafter went to the Germany Library Association where Ms. Klauser, shared with the delegation about what the Germany Library Association does. She informed the delegation that since Germany is characterized by a decentralised federal system, especially in the field of culture and education. This system is reflected in the equally strong decentralization of the German library landscape of about 8,200 libraries with more than 10,000 service points, resulting in a wide range of libraries, organisations and associations, all acting on behalf of the library user.

For 65 years the association has represented the interests of libraries and their users in Germany. The association has more than 2,100 members nationwide including more than 3,000 libraries and their branches. Its sophisticated member network supports the continual development of libraries. The 16 regional chapters represent the interests of libraries on a regional level. Many regional chapters also offer comprehensive education and training programmes. Targeted press and public relations focus towards the impact of libraries on culture and education.

The Library Association finances its core activities exclusively from member fees but also collects extensive third party funds. In doing so, it is able to offer a broad range of additional services.

Currently there are 8,228 public libraries 7,979 led by professional staff 2,029 led by volunteers/part-time staff 5,950 Academic libraries 249 Collections 365 million Loans 471 million Active users 11 million Visits 201 million Staff 22,357.

The association publishes an annual *“Report on the State of Libraries”* to keep political decision makers and the media abreast of current library topics and issues. The association members, represented by the library directors, are reached through an internal information system. A bi-monthly newsletter and website information is dedicated to sharing information with library staff but also politicians and journalists.

The association has a number of projects which include; the nationwide provision of library services to the entire population, digitization and digital media services, questions regarding copyright issues in the digital society, as well as the promotion of key skills such as reading and the systematic use of information and media.

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3.0 Lessons learnt/Observations

The Germany Library Association (GLA) produces Annual statistics of the national libraries which isn't the case with the Uganda Library and Information Association and therefore a big lesson that the ULIA can learn from.

In addition, these statistics inform policy makers and decision makers which has brought about appreciation and relevance of the library sector in Germany. The association also has a patron who advocates for the importance of libraries in the country. This can also be implemented in Uganda.

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The GLA also has a person in charge of the International Cooperation who is responsible for international professional exchanges of German librarians and foreign librarians in addition to finding out opportunities for the librarians, which isn't the case with the ULIA.

The association publishes an annual *“Report on the State of Libraries”* to keep political decision makers and the media abreast of current library topics and issues. This helps the association to be appreciated, this is something that the association in Uganda doesn't do, and therefore looks forward to implement it.

Whereas, the association has 16 regional chapters which represent the interests of libraries on a regional level. Many regional chapters also offer comprehensive education and training programmes. Targeted press and public relations focus towards the impact of libraries on culture and education. Similarly, the Uganda Library and Information Association has regional chapters in the four regions of Uganda (Northern, Eastern, Central and Western), although these chapters don't provide education and training programmes.

In order to minimise space, the Germany Library of Leipzig is using mobile automated mobile shelves, this something that the National Library of Uganda can adopt considering funding.

The Germany Library also provides services to the refugees by having reading tents and various language translators for communication with the refugees from the different countries. This can also be adopted by our libraries in Uganda, considering that we do host a number of refugees who don't have access to information.

The Germany Library of Leipzig in addition to the legal deposit of physical books requires authors/institutions/publishers to submit in electronic copies of the same physical book submitted. These electronic copies can easily be accessed online. The National Library of Uganda is also in stages of implementing this.

At the Pfennigparade Foundation, the Librarian also goes out to the community and provides library services to them especially in the busy places like the station. This markets the library services and also to the people who may not have access to the library. This was something new, which is interesting to adopt as well in Uganda.

The Library also conducts and collects daily statistics which statistics are in put in the national library system to be included in the annual library statistics report.

4.0 Conclusion

All in All, the professional study visit met our objectives as anticipated. We look forward to future partnerships and collaborations with the Germany Library Association and other libraries visited. In addition to further guidance in services/activities we shall implement back home in order to improve the services provided by the library sector.

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