

CONFERENCES

Integrating Bulgarian Library Resources: Nalis - The Gateway To Bulgarian Academic Libraries International Forum, Sofia (Bulgaria), 23-24 September 2010

The international forum on modern library and archive know-how, global trends in the integration of library resources, best practices and information on new library software took place on the eve of the academic year in Bulgaria. The forum was organised by the National Academic Library and Information System Foundation (NALISF) with the support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation. The occasion was the NALISF official opening and the presentation of its integrated catalogue to the public. The NALIS Union Catalogue is the most prestigious portal of academic libraries in Bulgaria and is freely accessible to the public.

The conference delegates included speakers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Bulgaria. It was welcomed by the U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria and attended by representatives of the Bulgarian government and of certain non-governmental organisations.

The participants included more than 200 librarians, computer specialists, scholars and scientists who actively participated with various questions. The audience showed particular interest in the lecture given by Richard Ovenden, the Keeper of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts and Associate Director of the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford. He presented the recent developments at the Bodleian Libraries and encouraged his Bulgarian colleagues to keep working on the field, mainly by means of his own first-hand experience.

No less interesting was the lecture of David Ferriero, the 10th Archivist of the United States and a special guest of NALISF, especially in terms of management of huge collections on the order of "10 billion pages of paper docu-

ments, more than 14 million still photographs, miles and miles of video and audio tape and film, and thousands of artifacts, maps and charts" and in terms of providing access to them.

Karen Calhoun, Vice President, OCLC World Cat and Metadata Services, shared the best practices at OCLC in terms of national and regional library cooperation. Her lecture was intended especially for the Bulgarian audience, even if the examples given were usually from far beyond the Bulgarian borders.

The German speaker, Marc Daubach, is a top leader of Ex Libris - one of the leading companies in library software solutions. So everyone was eager to find out about the most recent developments in the field of resource management and library automation frameworks. Needless to say, nobody was disappointed by the report, nor was there any question (even during the coffee breaks) left unexplained.

Not stated in the Forum programme was Sabina Aneva's impromptu demonstration of the NALIS Union Catalogue based on Primo. It was a real delight for all the library employees and users to see a great number of search results from various libraries displayed on the NALIS portal, by means of a technology similar to Google - or, rather, the library response to Google. As one of our Ex Libris guests joked, "It was the most important presentation; it showed our baby". Even if not so, "the baby" has grown. After the event the number of the NALIS associate members has gradually increased together with the libraries that eagerly provide their data to the NALIS Union Catalogue.

More information available at:

<http://www.nalis.bg/Events>

Papers will not be published but are freely accessible as presentations at:

www.nalis.bg/Events/Programme

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