Library and Information Science Education in Germany

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LIS Education in Germany

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- Institute of Information Science

Education in Germany
- Employee of media and information services
  Fachangestellter für Medien- und Informationsdienste (FAMI)
- Specialist of media and information services
  Fachwirt
- Studies at Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)
- Studies at Universities

...
LIS Education in Germany

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Introduction

My own person

Cologne University of Applied Sciences
Institute of Information Science
Very briefly

- 1977-1983 study of chemistry at the University of Cologne.
- 1986 dissertation in inorganic chemistry.
- Specialist for scientific-technical and patent information, business intelligence, and knowledge management.
Very briefly

- Since April 2000 professor for marketing of information services at the University of Applied Sciences Cologne, Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences, Institute of Information Science.
- Main topics in teaching and research are marketing, customer relationship management, quality management and online marketing.
- Dean since June 2001.
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The buildings
History

- Foundation at 1st August 1971
- The biggest University of Applied Sciences in Germany
- More than 450 professors and more than 16,000 students
- Since September 2002 ten faculties with a broad spectrum of subjects
- More than 60 courses of studies
- Nearly 50% are Bachelor and Master studies
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Institutional History

- 1928 - 1944  West German Public Library School
- 1946 - 1949  West German Library School
- 1949 - 1982  Library Teaching Institute of NRW
- 1982 - 1995  University of Applied Sciences for Librarianship and Documentation
- 1995        Integration in the University of Applied Sciences
- 2001        Renaming in „Department of Information Science“
- 2002        „Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences“ with the Institute of Translation
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Staff of the Institute

- 21 Professors
- 4 Scientific employees and 1 secretary
- ca. 20 Part-time lecturers
- ca. 35 Student temporary workers and tutors
- ca. 600 Students
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- **Librarianship (Diploma)**
  8 semesters, 2006 academic reform BA 6 semesters

- **Information Economy (Diploma)**
  8 semesters, 2006 academic reform BA 6 semesters

- **Master of Library and Information Science**
  3 semesters plus 6 month practical training

- **Media study Online-Editor (Bachelor of Arts)**
  6 semesters
The Education in Germany

Employee of media and information services
(Fachangestellter für Medien- und Informationsdienste - FAMI)

Specialist in media and information services
(Fachwirt für Medien- und Informationsdienste )

Studies at Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

Studies at Universities
Three levels

1st level **Apprenticeship** of three years
Employee of media and information services
In German: Fachangestellter für Medien- und Informationsdienste (FAMI)

2nd level **Undergraduate**
Till today:
Higher Education at UAS awarding the academic degree „Diplom“ in librarianship or information economy i.e.
In the future:
Academic Bachelor-degree at UAS or univ.
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Three levels

- **3rd level** Postgraduate
  - Till today:
    - Higher education at Universities awarding the academic degree „Diplom“ in Information Science i.e. as supplementary study or doctoral study
    - Official government supported education at special schools of academic librarianship for 2 years as a postgraduate programme
  
- **In the future:**
  - Academic Master-degree at UAS or univ.
Apprenticeship

- Employee of media and information services
- Three year vocational training - apprenticeship after lower degree in high school (10 years)
- Integrative curriculum with specialization option in the 3rd year for:
  - Archive
  - Information and Documentation
  - Medical Documentation
  - Librarianship
  - Photo agencies
- Examination by local chambers of commerce
Further education for the „FAMI“

- Planned is moreover an undergraduate education for the employees in media and information services: the specialist in media and information services starting 2006.

- This degree will be possible after some years professional practise and should be comparable with the Bachelor degree.

- The „Fachwirt“ will give better job prospects (career) for FAMIs and lateral entrants.

- But it´s a very controversial discussed degree in Germany.
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Qualifications

- In future the different fields of librarianship (i.e. public, academic, and special libraries) will have a minor importance in education.
- Traditional skills like bibliology, literacy and the consideration of books as objects (ancient manuscripts, incunables, bookbinding, design) lose some of its relevance.
- The result is a growing convergence of information economy, documentation, and librarianship.
- Librarians will no longer be employed only in libraries.
Qualifications

- What factors determine a career of an information specialist or librarian?
- Employers
  - libraries, companies, other institutions...
- Fields of work
  - management, indexing, information research...
- Skills
  - specialist knowledge, cultural and social skills...
What knowledge and skills must a librarian possess in the new information society?

- Know-how in business administration and marketing of information services and as well as information services and information competence are new key-areas.
- The degree of language proficiency and information technology gain in importance.
- Competences in media engineering, web-technology must be taught increasingly.
- Some new fields must be integrated in the curricula: knowledge management and competitive intelligence.
- Social skills are integrated part of education.
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Subject method skills

Information and librarian skills

Social and intercultural skills

Specialist in LIS
The curricula can no longer be oriented towards potential employers (i.e. libraries).

The curricula orient towards the different fields of work and the required working qualifications.

Advantage of these reorganization is the smaller dependence on the job market in the different fields of work.

A higher flexibility of the applicants will be reached.
Beside the education in librarianship the UAS and universities provide study programmes in
- information management,
- information economics,
- information systems (information technology),
- online editor,
- knowledge management,
- archive management,
- information design etc.

These courses of study overlap in some / many topics with the classical studies.

Result: competition with other universities!
Internationalization of Education in Germany

Bachelor and Master
Consequences and Trends
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Most important aspects of university reform in Germany

- The introduction of staged studies and degrees (Bachelor and Master)
- Easier mobility for students
- More transparency in teaching and teaching contents
- Standarized calculation of study input (ECTS)
- A reduction in study duration
- Internationalization of studies
- Promotion of life-long learning

The transition to international degrees
The general law of higher education is the Framework Act for Higher Education, but each federal state arranges its policy in education on the base of the individual higher education act. The „coordination“ occurs by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (in German: KMK), but there are a lot of differences in higher education. Example: The KMK allows for Bachelor and Master 6+4, 7+3 or 8+2 semesters, but some states only allow 6+4 semesters.
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Bachelor and Master Organisation in Germany

- The Bachelor’s degree will replace the degree on completion of undergraduate study courses at the UAS.
- The Master’s degree will replace the degree on completion of postgraduate study courses at the universities.
- The BA and MA will replace the German “Diplom”.
- The Master’s degree entitles the graduate to take a doctorate / PhD at universities – but not at UAS.
Bachelor and Master

Organisation in Germany

- Now Universities and UAS offer Bachelor and Master studies.
- Till 2007 all UAS and universities have to implement the Master´s and Bachelor´s degree.
- The introduction of BA and MA will correspond with the introduction of the credit system ECTS.
- Possibly the old antagonism between the two educational models will be resolved.
- The universities must become more practise-related and the UAS get the possibility to become more research-oriented.
The duration of the Bachelor’s degree usually will be 3 years.

Consequences:
- Condensation of content from 4 to 3 years.
- What’s about the high proportion of practical studies?
- The practical training semester till now takes a minimum of 22 weeks.
- Possibility of realisation from the new framework conditions?
UAS will be in a sandwich-position between the employees / specialists of media and information services and the universities.

The complicated structure of professional levels in public service will not adapt the new degree in the near future, because

the acceptance of the new degrees depends on the revision of the „Federal Employers Wage Rates“ (in German: BAT) which is very inflexible.
Further trainings and studies will become more and important in future.

They will be organised in form of:
- alongside career studies
- part-time studies
- lectures in the evening and on saturday
- further education and / summer schools
- e-learning and distance education

Integration of further training institutions in the universities.
In the field of information economy the alongside career studies are needed for coming up through the ranks, making a good step career wise or job changes. But, can libraries give the chance to graduates to earn more money or to change from the higher intermediate level civil servants to the higher level (BAT)?
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Outlook
Classic „library schools“ tend to search for new areas and thus must reduce traditional contents, i.e.
- Cologne: online editor
- Darmstadt: online journalist
- Stuttgart: information services (business informatics)

The curricula of the studies don´t orient on the employers but on different working qualifications.
Universities

- The role of UAS and universities in Germany will possibly change as a consequence of the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree.
- Will be in ten years only one type of higher education institutions in Germany with departments of undergraduate and postgraduate education?
Thank you for your attention!

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