

The project: Turning an idea into a book

Since 2002 the Institute of Library and Information Science has been offering undergraduate students a seminar on the aspect: "Turning an idea into a book". The seminar is held by Petra Hauke.

This hands-on seminar introduces students to real-world book publication from the submission of an idea to the final hardcover product. In the process students learn how to edit and prepare submitted articles for publication, how to secure financing and how to find a publisher. The participants learn about the basic aspects of publishing project management:

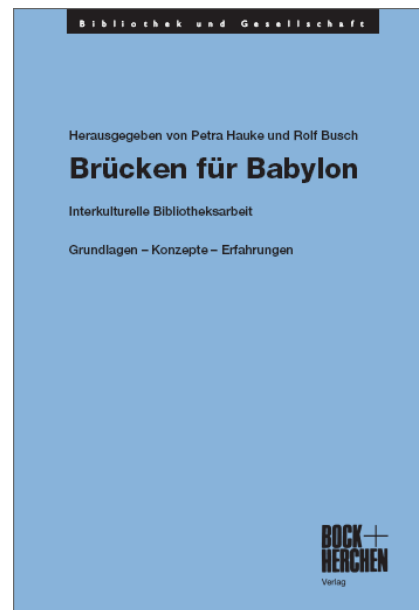
- Finding the right topic
- Acquisition of articles
- Contacting and communicating with the authors
- Professional layout
- Set-up and structure of a publication
- Possible forms of a publication
- Financing
- Editing an article
- Legal aspects
- Advertising and public relations.

The goal of the seminar is to produce a comprehensive exhaustive volume on a subject relevant to library and information science. The publication is released as classical print version, on a CD-ROM or as Open Access version.

Open Access version:

<http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/miscellanies/babylon/>

Print version:



Brücken für Babylon: Interkulturelle Bibliotheksarbeit, Grundlagen – Konzepte – Erfahrungen / ed. by Petra Hauke and Rolf Busch. Bad Honnef: Bock+Herchen, 2008.

Contact the publisher via buh@bock-net.de



Bridges for Babylon

Cross-cultural library services
in Germany and beyond

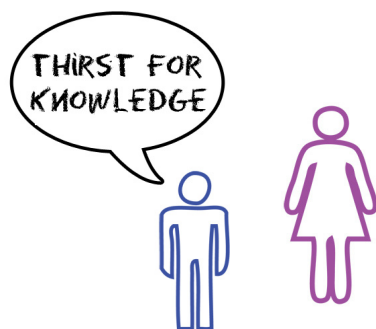


Experiences of a publishing project at the
Institute of Library and Information Science
at Humboldt University, Berlin

www.ibi.hu-berlin.de

Starting point

Currently a lot of international organisations are engaged in topics like *Multiculturality*, *Diversity* and *Internationality*. In August 2006 the Governing Board of IFLA already has approved the *IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto*, which in April 2008 was endorsed by the Intergovernmental Council for UNESCO's *Information for All* Programme.



The European Union designated 2008 as the "Year of Intercultural Dialogue". In addition, the United Nations proclaimed 2008 as the "International Year of Languages". All these examples show that nowadays multicultural matters play an essential role in our globalized society.

Intention

Against this background and as an active contribution to the „Year of Intercultural Dialogue“ „Bridges for Babylon“ presents strategies and projects to cope with the cultural gap. It provides support to the library work with groups of different ethnical background.

Content

Therefore different perspectives on current activities of German public libraries in this field are discussed:

- Fostering of cross-cultural literacy;
- Skills development;
- Networking.



Fostering of cross-cultural literacy

These days, public libraries already offer a broad variety of creative projects:

- “Media boxes” containing multilingual children’s books to children as well as their parents with access to languages and to provide to different kinds of media;
- Special guided library-tours for citizens of foreign descent effect a competent handling of information and the libraries resources;
- Readings held by authors with different backgrounds allow an active exchange between cultures as the audience is invited to ask and discuss.

Through this all participants will primarily experience tolerance and a deeper multicultural understanding.

Skills development

Furthermore it seems indispensable to involve library staff in the cross-cultural process:

- Making use of the natural potential of various spoken languages;
- Project work with users of different cultural background.

Only a general intercultural sensitivity throughout the library staff and a self-evident handling of the given diversity enables further activities.

Networking

Due to their multifaceted activities, public libraries can create empowering networks in their local communities by cooperating with:

- Educational institutions,
- Welfare institutions,
- Voluntary associations,
- Economy and politics.



This kind of networking avoids double-work and at the same time opens the libraries’ rich knowledge and ICT infrastructure to the work of the participating institutions.

Going international

Countries like Canada, Denmark or the Netherlands have successfully established intercultural library work for long time. From there “Bridges for Babylon” enriches the discussion additionally by giving insight into international best practices of cross-cultural library services.