Neue Formen der Erwerbung / ed. Susanne Göttker and Franziska Wein

This manual on new acquisition forms and methods reflects the most recent discussions on collection management in the digital age of academic libraries in Germany, written mainly for German professionals. This state of the art report illustrates German intentions of knowledge exchange within the European library community, too. Altogether seventeen articles of German and Swiss (why not Austrian?) acquisition experts are grouped in five main chapters:

1. Libraries – their Users and the Acquisition Issues
2. Re-organization of the Acquisition Business and Models
3. Library and Vendors
4. Local Acquisition
5. Consortial Acquisition

One might have expected to find acquisition and collection development discussions of public libraries, especially if you think of public library’s e-book lending, the outsourcing of media selection and/or the acquisition process to aggregators, but
these issues were not included. Therefore I think the title of the book could have been more precisely “New Acquisition Forms in Academic Libraries”.

The central focus of the articles is the media change and its effects on acquisition and collection development business. Traditional tasks of buying books and new responsibilities for handling license agreements (big deals, e-book acquisition models) by different library consortia have coexisted in Germany as in other countries for the last decade. The calculation of costs and budget distribution models need to be modified because of e-books and big deals or to be questioned altogether as adequate budget distribution models. The inclusion of users into collection development (Patron-Driven Acquisition Models, user statistics), electronic resource management, the standardization of metadata (Susanne Göttker and Martin Iordanidis, p. 67), acquisition and allocation of primary data, a closer cooperation with library suppliers using shopping basket functions are new challenges for acquisition librarians in academic libraries.

Annette Klein (p. 5) describes current models of PDA/DDA/evidence based e-book purchase, best practice examples of German libraries including PDA of printed books and reflects current issues of PDA worldwide. However, in spite of the enthusiastic discussion among librarians, the buy don’t borrow programs will modify acquisition practices but not necessarily initiate a paradigm change, as some may have expected.

The acquisition of digital media requires a different process management. Arlette Piquet describes the reorganization at the ETH library (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich). Media and IT services merged to one department in order to optimize collection management, integrating cataloging tasks with activities of metadata creation and electronic resources management (p. 44). Monika Moravetz-Kuhlmann gives an overview of German budget requirement and budget distribution models in use in academic libraries. They gained importance in the 1990s, when budget restrictions collided with a steadily growing literature production. The Bavarian Model of Budget Requirements is a political instrument negotiating the library budget for the acquisition of literature. However, electronic media needs are difficult to evaluate per subject. They are instead added in a lump to the library budget.

Budget distribution models as the one in use at Humboldt University Library in Berlin are essential for the distribution of the acquisition budget amongst the different subjects and faculties. The Humboldt model includes e-media into the calculation per subject using the average costs of the past three years per subject as an orientation guide. As a result of the media change, conventional parameter of budget calculations, like number of annual publications and average price per subject, become more and more obsolete, even more so when electronic content will overcome book genres and merge into big data pools in the future. (p. 63). Franziska Wein states: conventional models of budget needs for print books and individual budget needs 2.0 for digital media which will coexist for some time (p. 66).

International data exchange made it necessary for German libraries to harmonize their cataloging standards using RDA on the way to a worldwide union catalogue. Susanne Göttker and Martin Iordanidis explain that the German Library (DNB) will have to provide normed data for the international exchange. (p. 79)
One of the values of this book is that the library suppliers’ point of view is included in two contributions of Swets (Anne Bein and Jürgen Stickelberger) and Lehman’s (Detlef Büttner). Both describe the development from mere media suppliers to integrated service agencies as partners for libraries that are forced to outsource library tasks in order to cope with staff restrictions. Franziska Wein (p. 104) describes the selection of media and service suppliers (approval plans, shopping carts, data import) from the library’s point of view.

The University Library of Erfurt/Gotha formulated requirement specifications and asked five library suppliers to present an offer. Faculty representatives were included in the evaluation of service models. In difference to international practice it was agreed that supplying the bibliographic data not necessarily guaranteed that the title was purchased with the data supplier. (p.118) Acquisition of media via invitation of tenders within Europe, as practiced at the RTWH Aachen, is the exception in German media acquisition as long as the book prices in Germany are fixed. Tenders are only expected for international media without fixed prices.(Stefan Bastian, p. 132).

Legal aspects and the U.S. model contracts for licensing digital content¹ cannot be adapted easily to the German law. (Klaus Junkes-Kirchen (p. 139) SERU (The Shared E-Resource Understanding) as expression of shared understandings of publishers and library expectations is a pragmatic American initiative, but is not used in Germany. The German Library Association does not recommend exemplary license contracts and refers to German copyright law and the necessity of German legislation to concede exceptions from copyright restrictions for information needs of educational and scientific institutions (p. 142).

ERM (Mario Kowalak and Andreas Sabisch, p. 145), user statistic issues (Miriam Lorenz, p 157) and a description of the different German purchase consortia of national importance (Jochen Johannsen, p. 169) describe the state of the art in Germany as in libraries of other countries. Consortia in the end could not solve the journal’s crisis. Libraries will have to combine consortia models with open access structures (p. 182).

As in the U.K., the long term availability of electronic journals’ archives was the motive to create the German National Licenses, during the first project period of 2004 to 2010 financed by the D.F.G. (German Research Foundation). Hildegard Schäffler as an expert from Bavarian State Library, B.S.B., gives a detailed insight in complementary national initiatives to established consortia licenses as access models to electronic research material. Alliance Licenses in contrast to fully financed national licenses of the first period are based on financial contributions of participating institutions (opt-in-model, p. 209) in addition to D.F.G. funds, accepting a moving wall for new publications. The most recent priority initiative “Digital Information” by the Alliance of German Science Organizations, of which D.F.G. is part of, is working at national level to identify ways of a national hosting strategy creating a back-up hosting solution, otherwise known as a “safety net”².

The initiative supports the green way and most recently the golden way of open access. First trials with multinational licenses (within the European context) were not continued because of difficulties in harmonizing the existing national contracts and

¹ cf. http://liblicense.crl.edu
the time consuming tendering process. (p. 219) Finally, Olaf Hering (Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, J.K.I.) shows best practice examples of cooperative licensing of databases and sharing of e-books within government libraries. (p 223)

Small errors (typo script errors, p. 2, 162.163) should be corrected in future editions. Cross-references of the articles should be seen to. M. Lorenz refers to “ERM systems in chapter 2” (p.164), whereas she should have cited correctly the article of Kowalak / Sabisch in chapter 4 (p. 145ff). The paper of A.Piquet refers to illustration 3 “classification of e-books” in the appendix that does not correspond, same with illustration 4 in footnote 4: “lending of print books”. Illustration 3 of the appendix is “classification of e-journals” and illustration 4 is “acquisition and classification of e-books” (p. 49 and 50).

This manual is the most recent comprehensive description of German acquisition and collection development practice in Germany. In order to encourage an international discussion, it would have been helpful to offer either abstracts in English or to have the introductory foreword translated to English.

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