



# University libraries as part of international relations

Lessons learned from setting up a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Edinburgh Library & University Collections and Freie Universität Berlin University Library

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# Outline

- Background for setting-up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between University of Edinburgh Library & University collections and Freie Universität University Library
- Contents of the MoU and its meaning & benefits for both libraries
- Short review of two recent staff meeting events
- Chances and challenges of staff development and international librarianship

# Background to the Collaboration

- **Incidental meetings of members of staff in various programmes**
  - Digital Libraries Conference in Copenhagen
  - FORCE2019 Scholarly Communications Conference in Edinburgh
  - European Open Science Meeting in Berlin
  - LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme
- **Discussions around changes in library services, and professional development**
  - Freie Universität Berlin University Library Change project
  - University of Edinburgh Strategy Development

# Contents of the MoU and its meaning & benefits for both libraries

MoU developed jointly between our libraries, with input from international officers and legal services, signed on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

- **Themes for Collaboration:**

- Developing new and innovative library services
- Our people and their professional development
- Organisational change

- **Ideas for Collaboration:**

- Innovation workshops
- Staff development and exchange
- Organisational and service review: being a critical friend

# Contents of the MoU and its meaning & benefits for both libraries

## **Making University Libraries (UL) part of International Relations**

- Supporting the internationalization strategies of both universities
- Become a more visible stakeholder for international activities within the institution (→ networking with other departments, i.e. research support)
- Support the goals of strategic partnership networks like UNA Europa\* (joint “virtual” campuses, joint research focus areas, PhD student exchange etc.) through embedded library services tailored to researcher’s & students’ needs

## **International Exchange and Staff development**

- Support and encourage multilingualism of staff
- Widening of perspectives on librarianship and exchange on best practices
- Supporting the strategic goal of the library to thrive for more user driven services also on an international networking level
- Collaborate especially in times of crisis and disruption

\*UNA Europa: <https://www.una-europa.eu/>

# Short review of two recent staff meeting events

## Inaugural Virtual Meeting on October 27, 2020

### Goals:

- Introduction of the structure of both library organizations
- Introduction of people from both organizations (core services, new services)
- Generating & prioritizing ideas for the second event

### Topics of staff presentations:

- *Introducing the MakerSpace (UoE)*
- *Library system ALMA: Knowledge Management at FUB University Library*
- *Resource Lists as a service for managing provision of materials for teaching (UoE)*
- *Sustainability project: Power Producing Bike in the Library (FUB)*

Library Collaboration UoE & FUB We want to find out: What do you consider the most interesting aspect of our organisations? What do we want to work on together?

What is special/interesting about our library?	What would I like to learn more about from the other library?	What topics would I want to discuss with the colleagues? (specialized or general subjects)	What do I want the next UoE-FUB-event to focus on?
<p>FUB: We are currently in the middle of a big change process.   9 0</p>	<p>UoE: How do you account for diversity and accessibility?   8 3</p>	<p>How is everyone dealing with the extra stress during the pandemic?   26 0</p>	<p>Can we look at specialist staff exchanges, initially virtual but longer term, physical?   37 0</p>
<p>UoE: the combination of cultural heritage collections and general collections.   7 0</p>	<p>UoE: What is "co-creation" for you and how do you apply it with your visitors/users?   4 0</p>	<p>Academic Library Support - How do we support researchers and how can we get better at it?   23 0</p>	<p>How to conceptualize and build a maker space like at UoE?   19 0</p>
	<p>how FUB digitises collections, what the workflow is and strategic priorities   9 0</p>	<p>What do you know about your users (and maybe even non-users) and how do you know that?   19 1</p>	<p>I would love to learn more about the Covid19-Archive project of the UoE!   18 1</p>
	<p>Experiences with (data / library / software/...) carpentries at UoE   11 0</p>	<p>Digitalisation an dPresentation of Collections   18 1</p>	<p>What new services have FUB had to develop to support the University during Covid 19?   16 0</p>
	<p>UoE: How are you supporting the adoption of Open Access Research Publications?   11 0</p>		<p>Development of Open Access publishing and Open Research   16 0</p>

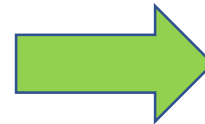
How to conceptualize and built a MakerSpace like at UoE?

# Short review of two recent staff meeting events

## Second Virtual Meeting on November 4, 2020

### Goals:

- Learn from the other organisation
- Develop collaborations through discussions in break-out rooms



### Topics of staff presentations (5min):

- *The UoE Covid19-Archive project*
- *Change-Process and Organizational Development at FUB UL*
- *Journal Hosting Service "Open Journal System"*
- *Embedded Librarian and Research Support at FUB UL*



### 2 x2 Break-out room sessions on the following topics:

- Topic 1: Makerspace: The development of makerspaces from pilot to full service, including steps taken to adjust the service to respond to Covid-19
- Topic 2: Working during the pandemic
- Topic 3: Academic Support & Engagement: How can Library staff support and work with academic colleagues?
- Topic 4: Meeting the colleagues - open chat

# Chances and challenges of staff development and international librarianship

## CHALLENGES

- COVID19 and its impact on library services because of changing local and regional policies, lockdowns etc.
- Importance of being mindful of language
  - **provide language learning opportunities for librarians**
- Different ways of working and different organisational cultures - being mindful of different ways of working in different national cultures
  - **provide tutorials for intercultural competence, integrate feedback & recommendations from colleagues with experiences on visits abroad**



# Chances and challenges of staff development and international librarianship

## CHANCES

- Many of us work very collaboratively with peers at a national level already, but not so much on an international level yet.
- This exchange provides an opportunity to experience different ways of achieving similar goals. We can learn about different ways of doing things in different national contexts.
- Not all ways of doing things will work in different contexts, but learning about them and considering what methods could be shared is useful reflective practice.
- We are keen for people to get to know one another digitally (the initial intention was for on-site exchange, but this will not be possible for a while). We hope that online staff exchange will provide staff with an interesting collaboration opportunity - and actually this has been a pleasant distraction during COVID times. Whilst we are all really busy, we enjoy making time to hear from one another.

## Questions for our discussion

- **What are your experiences in international librarian exchange?**
- **What methods of collaboration and trainings do you recommend for our UoE-FUB-partnership network?**

# Vielen Dank & Thank you for your attention!

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