Межбиблиотечное сотрудничество: социологическое исследование взаимосвязей, инициированных программой USIS/ALA Fellows Program

Interlibrary Cooperation: A case study of a Relationship Initiated Via the USIS/ALA Library Fellows Program

Міжбібліотечне співробітництво: соціологічне дослідження взаємозв"язків, розпочатих завдяки програмі USIS/ALA Fellows Program

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В докладе рассмотрены вопросы технического и культурного обмена, которые происходят благодаря программе USIS/ALA Fellows Program между библиотекой Колорадо Коледж (США) и научной библиотекой Национального Университета "Киево-Могилянская Академия".

In this paper we explore the technical and cultural exchanges which took place and are taking place because of this placement. Sheridan's assignment focused on assistance in establishing an on-line system for the library. He also became involved in user education and in visiting a dozen other libraries. Yaroshenko introduced Sheridan to Slavic librarianship and arranged for staff seminars.
Another staff member presented a paper with Sheridan at a conference in Champaign, Illinois in June 1997 and then attended the American Library Association Conference. She also visited Sheridan's library in Colorado. Many boxes of books were sent from Sheridan's Tutt Library to the UKMA library. An incidental benefit was English language practice, both at Kyiv-Mohyla and the America House. A general summary and evaluation concludes the paper.

В цій доповіді ми досліджуємо технічний та культурний обміни, що відбулися та відбуваються завдяки програмі USIS/ALA Fellows Program між бібліотекою Колорадо Коледж (США) та науковою бібліотекою Національного Університету "Києво-Могилянська Академія".

This cooperative venture is just one part of the drive to re-establish a library from virtually nothing in the resurrected University of Kyiv)Mohyla Academy. From its halcyon days in the 17th and early 18th centuries to its renaissance in 1992, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy has been an important symbol of the independent intellectual vitality of the Ukrainian people. It weathered centuries of domination by tsars and the Soviet system. So it was important in this newly Independent State that the library of the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy be a model.

Through much hard work and investigation of opportunities, the leadership of the UKMA library identified several agencies and organizations for collaboration. Publishers from various countries were contacted as well as individuals and groups from the Ukrainian diaspora were solicited. Space was identified and refurbished. The collection began to grow. The next step seemed to be the acquisition and implementation of an on-line system.

In 1996, under Tetiana Yaroshenko's direction, two complementary proposals were prepared. The first was submitted to the Open Society Institute, a Soros Foundation, for the purchase of the hardware and software for an on-line system. Since there was little local experience with implementing an integrated on-line system, UKMA turned to a USIS program. The American Library Association has administered for the United States Information Service a program known as the Library Fellows. The proposed position was accepted by USIS and placed on the list of possible postings for 1996-97 Fellows. In fact, whereas Ukraine has not hosted a Fellow before this, two positions were listed and filled - a unique event, two Fellows in the same city at the same time - in the history of the

program. This demonstrated the US's confidence in the positive role which libraries could play in Ukraine's emerging civil society.

The librarian selected to serve as the Fellow was John Sheridan, Head Librarian at Colorado College. He had experience in library automation dating from 1974. He had overseen the installation of two generations of local systems in his library. Through prior email communications, the UKMA staff presented him with a useful overview of the situation and with progress reports. So he had a good sense of the lay of the land, when he arrived in December 1996.

One of the first learning experience for this Fellow was the effects of the Christmas and New Year holidays. While a server arrived the day after he dud, it needed some attention but service representatives were on holiday for two weeks. This turned into a useful time to get to know each other better. Sheridan made a presentation to the staff during this period, to introduce himself and his project.

Next a difference of opinion led to a needed part being held up in the Customs House for several weeks. This occurred at a time when there was a great deal of negotiating going on between the UKMA Library and the EERC's Masters in Economics program. Because of having a similar background with many of the, primarily American, principals in that program, Sheridan was able to be of some assistance in that endeavor. A particular project which derived from this interaction was a library instruction program. The EERC had contributed to the furnishing of a Graduate Reading Room at UKMA. In discussing ways of introducing students to the use of this resource and the role of information in this program, a two-stage unit was designed: one in the Graduate Reading Room and a second one on searching the Internet. The latter sessions were taught by Oleysha Arkhypska, the Deputy Director for Automation. A second round of classes were taught in the Fall of 1997 and another poster session at this conference explains it in more detail.

A great deal of concentrated effort was required, under the guidance of Serhij Dotsenko, to accomplish the many tasks which had to be completed before the first visit of the vendor's representative. Committees were formed within the library staff to consider the issues of format, of subject headings and of classification, and to make recommendations. This process, too is discussed in greater detail in another poster session.

Dotsenko also needed to work with University staff a for code and structural concerns and with third parties for wiring projects. He also had to be in regular communications with the University's computing personnel.

The training was an intense and new experience for the staff. Tetiana Bugasova took a leadership role in articulation cataloging rules and system demands. Sheridan offered some information on formats, particularly, throughout the process. After having an opportunity to discuss and investigate the collection needs of the library, Sheridan arranged with the support of America House in Ukraine a bi-weekly shipment of relevant books from his home library in Colorado. Many books are given to Colorado College but many are already in that collection so there was a good deal of worthwhile titles to select from.

Because of the visibility UKMA had received from the leadership roles it had taken, Sheridan received many invitations to visit other libraries in and around Kyiv. For instance he went to the National Medical Library, the e National Agricultural Library and the Vernadsky National Library. He visited Lesa Ukrainka Public Library and the Anna Akhmatova Library. The National Polytechnic University and the Book Chamber hosted him, also, among others.

In the summer of 1997, the USIS supported a trip by Tetiana Bugasova to Champaign, Illinois where he co-presented a paper with Sheridan at the Conference on Ukrainian-American Cooperation. She also attended The Annual Conference of the American Library Association. A brief stop in Colorado Springs to tour the Tutt Library of Colorado College was also arranged.

This poster session has attempted to offer some of the highlights of the cooperation between the library of the Colorado College in the United States and the library of the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine. It started with a USIS Library Fellow award but has continued with one visit to the United States and two visits back to Ukraine. And it is expected to continue.