Tartu University Library as a medium between different patrons

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QQML 2009, Chania
Topics

• What is the meaning of the academic library for faculty members?
• How they perceive the issue of availability of reading materials proposed for students?
• What alternatives there are in the UT?
Outline

- Theoretical background
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
Osgood & Schramm model’s follow-up
Which way are the stairs headed?

Or what is the meaning of the university library in the eyes of the faculty members?
University of Tartu Library

A photo by B. Tšernjavski from D-Space
## Overview of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Subject area</th>
<th>No of courses</th>
<th>Tenure (y)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R1</td>
<td>Medicina</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2</td>
<td>Socialia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>R3</td>
<td>Socialia</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>R4</td>
<td>Medicina</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>R5</td>
<td>Humaniora</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>R6</td>
<td>Socialia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
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<td>R9</td>
<td>Humaniora</td>
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<tr>
<td>R12</td>
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<td>13</td>
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</table>
Interviews

- 12 semi-structured interviews

Representative characteristics:
- Subject areas
- Teaching
- Experience
The meaning of UTL

• Supporting or R&D facility
• Role of specialized libraries
• Invaluable access provider to databases of scientific, technical, medical and social science literature
Preparing a reading list: faculty

- Curriculum
- Experience
- Availability
- Usability in “high-ranked” universities
Preparing a reading list: librarian

- Photocopies & PDF
- Looking for publications
- Retrieving books from repositories
- New offers from publishers
A competent librarian

- Orienting in bibliographic records
- Skills of using *different programs* and databases
- Quick response to queries
- Kind, helpful, emphatic
- Well-orienting in home library’s collections
What about marketing?

• Target groups
• Library as a meeting place rather than a sanctuary
• The status
• Concept of a service provide spreads from the library all over the university
Making textbooks’ contents available

• Lectures & conspects
• Rotaprint editions
• “Course packs”
• Photocopies “on demand”
• Scanned chapters
• Web-based courses in Blackboard
• Video lectures
Who teaches IL skills?

- Supervisor of the research project
- Seminars and courses by faculty members
- Course developed by subject librarians
How much is sufficient?

- Recommended reading materials – at least 1-2 items
- Compulsory reading materials vs lecture
- Interdisciplinarity
- Exams session
Conclusions

• The university library is important but still has to prove itself.
• Libray → books
• What about electronic resources?
• The nuances of faculty-library communication
Further research

• This was the faculty member’s view. But there are librarians and students.

• Additional analysis about availability and loan frequency of different publications using circulation mode of ESTER.
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Questions?
Thank you!

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