Universitätsbibliothek Essen – 15th International Essen Symposium
12 October – 15 October 1992
Essen University Library celebrates its 15th International Symposium in honour of

Herbert S. White
Professor and Former Dean School of Library and Information Science Indiana University, Bloomington

As in the previous years the International Essen Symposium is the forum for colleagues to discuss new developments in libraries and exchange of ideas and challenges.

It is not an utopia that by the end of this decade users will browse electronically in remote libraries offering searching, borrowing, and document delivery. This will happen simply over a telephone line or adequate communication link. The material must exist in digitized form and the original document does not go out the library. However, we have to distinguish between the different types of texts. In addition, we have to keep in mind that there is an enormous amount of printed material not yet available in digital electronic form.

This year the Symposium is devoted to the topic „Opportunity 2000: Understanding and Serving Users in an Electronic Library“.

The International Essen Symposium will cover the following topics:
- What is expected of libraries in an electronic world?
- Impact of technological transformation on library management and organization;
- Librarians willingness to adapt and introduce new technologies;
- Library environment in an electronic integrated system; more access oriented and less size oriented?
- Are bigger libraries better libraries?
- The timeliness factor for users to seek, obtain and use information;
- Tutoring of users and problems of search techniques in an electronic library;
- CD-ROM networks as prototype of electronic libraries.

Are the problems technical and/or mass of unstructured informations or solving the problem of one disc/one user limitation?
- Are electronic libraries just clusters of workstations?
- The impact of installation of workstations and OPAC terminals on space allocation in libraries.

As in 1991, the commercial market will be well represented. An exhibition of systems providing new developments will be open throughout the symposium. „Vendor sessions“ will be incorporated into the programme to enable suppliers to address symposium attendees.

No attendance fee is charged. Delegates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. Those wishing to attend should send their registration request to

Essen University Library
by June 27, 1992.

Further details of the symposium and a programme will be issued in due course.

Dr. Ahmed H. Helal
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