

Access to knowledge and the economic crisis – a chance for libraries?

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Abstract

From the World Summit of the Information Society to the development of a knowledge economy, libraries are changing their image to take place in the heart of the information society. Access to knowledge through libraries is a key element of the incredible development of libraries all around the world and explains the role of libraries in a modern society. But does it help during a time of economic crisis, when state budgets worldwide are used to finance economic development instead of libraries? There are some examples that this situation gives a chance to libraries with their potential of access to knowledge.



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She holds a university degree in Library Science, University of Cologne, a PhD in Chinese Studies (Dr. Phil.), University of Bochum and a Graduate Diploma in Social Science, University of Bochum.

Her further professional experience includes Director of the Library of the Berlin Senate; Academic Librarian at the Berlin State Library, East-Asia Collection; Market Research, Berlin; Research Projects in connection with the former German Library Institute Berlin (specifically on retro-cataloguing issues, financing libraries, and problems associated with library fees); IFLA Governing Board Member since 1998; IFLA President, 2007-2009 (Theme: Libraries on the Agenda!); Chair of the IFLA National Committee, Germany; Honorary professor of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) teaching Information Literacy and International Library Politics and Advocacy.