Abstracts - Digital Library Futures – 25 August 2009

<u>Session 1:</u>

David Nicholas, University College London – UK
The Digital Library User Experience: the virtual scholar
The paper describes and evaluates the information seeking behaviour and use of academic staff and students in the virtual environment, in which they are seemingly so in their element. Data are drawn from a seven year study of the virtual scholar conducted by the CIBER research group at UCL and covers their use of e-journal, e-learning and e-book databases. Hundreds of thousands of scholars, from all over the globe are covered in the analyses. On the basis of these data, the characteristics of their 'digital footprints' are highlighted demonstrating as a result the huge paradigm shift that has occurred in information seeking behaviour of our young scholars. Or so it would seem. The results are surprising, disturbing and challenging, especially in regard to younger scholars (The BL/JISC Google Generation study will be referred to). The paper concludes with a discussion of how information professionals might best meet their information needs, the possibility of disconnecting from the user base as the digital transition moves at an increasing pace.

Daniel Teruggi, INA / Europeana - Paris, France
Europeana
The ambition of Europeana is to make all cultural contents accessible through its Portal, providing a unique access point to them where any kind of media is represented. It is oriented towards the general public but also to professionals or scholars. The user perspective is then essential for the success and acceptation of the project. However, how can this feedback be obtained; do users expect something specific? Are they really looking for something? Independently from traditional statistic and survey actions, it is important to obtain the perception users have of Europeana and to thus structure and orient a portal representing a new way of access to culture.

Elke Greifeneder, Berlin School of Library & Information Science, Humboldt University – Berlin, Germany
Data Collection - an analysis of publications on Digital User Research
This paper will build on the Digital Library Federation-sponsored study by Denise Troll Covey (2002, Usage and usability assessment: library practices and concerns) to look at the state of the art of user research. One of the questions is whether the data that comes from people's research actually answers their research question. This is especially important for digital content because the methods that we often apply come from a non-digital world. An example of such a problem is asking only people physically in a library about a resource that is available worldwide.

<u>Session 2:</u>

Einar Røttingen, University of Bergen, The Grieg Academy – Bergen, Norway
A Pianist's Use of the Digitalized Version of the Edvard Grieg Collection
The presentation will give a user-perspective on the digitalized version of the Edvard Grieg Collection in Norway. In recent years, an increasing number of collections and archives of music-related material has become available on the internet. Through this instant access into our musical heritage, performers, researchers and music lovers all over the world can gain information and knowledge about composer's works and lives. As a performing artist, researcher and music teacher, Professor Einar Roettingen will

give examples from his own work with Grieg's music and the Edvard Grieg Collection and give some perspectives concerning how this recent development is of importance to the many users in his field.

Susan Hazan, Israel Museum – Jerusalem, Israel
When is a library not a library?
When the Library of Congress uploads 4,880 of its 14 million pictures to Flickr, UNESCO tries to fit the Memory of the World into global library in order to guard against collective amnesia, and the *New* Bibliotheca Alexandrina becomes the home of the Wayback Machine, the mammoth Internet Archive that contains a snapshot of all web pages on every website since 1996, you know that it is time to rethink the term 'library' that makes sense for the 21st Century. This presentation briefly showcases a number of digital libraries; including Project Gutenberg, Europeana, Europe's Digital Library, UNESCO's World Digital Library, Michael S. Hart's Internet Archive, as well as the impressive reach of Google's Books,and will discuss one of the more resounding clashes of civilians that are currently taking place around the world; when the traditional librarian meets the Web 2.0 library head on.

Session 3:

Zhu Qiang, Beijing University Library, Beijing, China
To make a better digital library: some collaborative efforts in Mainland China
The digital library is facing some bottleneck issues in China, such as duplication of digitization, standardization, intellectual property protection, digital preservation, etc. Two kinds of mechanism have been set up to do some coordination and exploration to solve these issues. So far they've played some good roles in digital library construction and service.

John Van Oudenaren,
The World Digital Library as a Response to Challenges of the Digital Environment
The digital information environment is characterized by factors that include: (1) increasing to near-total reliance of various user groups on electronic media for access to information, including cultural information; (2) growing impact of globalization and cross-national flows of information, combined with large and persisting disparities both within and between countries with regard to access to digital information and opportunities to create digital content; (3)proliferation and increasing diversity of devices on which digital content can be accessed; (4) growing importance of user participation in the creation and re-creation of digital content; (5) relative decline of the centrality of print and increased importance of audio and visual media; (6) key role of search engines and other mechanisms that provide fast access to vast amounts of information but that do so in ways that fragment and disaggregate information; (7) difficult economic circumstances and great uncertainty about the financial sustainability of both of old and new media. The World Digital Library, a project launched by the Library of Congress in cooperation with UNESCO in 2005, has been planned and designed with many of these factors in mind. User feedback on the WDL since its launch on April 21, 2009 validate many design and development decisions, as well as suggest areas for ongoing work.

Rossella Caffo, Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities / ICCU – Rome, Italy
Strategies for institutions: responding to the digital challenge
Since many years the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of the Italian Libraries (ICCU) is involved into the coordination of European and national projects that promote the digitisation and online accessibility of the cultural heritage. The main national initiatives are: the National Library Service – SBN - http://www.sbn.it; Internet Culturale:- http://www.internetculturale.it; CulturaItalia http://www.culturaitalia.it/. Among the European projects it is worth mentioning: MINERVA http://www.minervaeurope.org; MICHAEL http://www.michael-culture.org; ATHENA http://www.athenaeurope.org. All these initiatives share a distributed approach, coordination structures at local, regional, and national level, tight liaisons with the national digitisation strategies, the active

participation of thousands of cultural institutions of every level and sector, and, last but not least, a cross domain approach. This means that they create at national and European level a positive attitude among archives, libraries, museums. All these efforts produced a wide range of benefits for all the involved stakeholders: administrations, institutions, users. The access ways to the information are multiplied, the interoperability of the informative systems is fostered, and the local initiatives are valorised in wider frameworks.

Herman P. Spruijt, Digital Library Futures: pressures on the publisher-librarian relation in the era of digital change
The International Publishers Association (IPA) and IFLA are in dialogue with each other through the IFLA IPA Working Group for many years now. In this presentation IPA President Herman P. Spruijt shows how convergence in the digital area is also present in the dialogue between publishers and libraries, touching upon topics such as digital services, virtual libraries, e-publishing, Google and open access.