

Plenary Session 1

Thursday, September 19, Room B, 9.30

Think Globally - Act Locally: Cooperation and Innovation in the Library Network

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Libraries such as the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin are increasingly to be regarded as nodes in a global information network. No single institution, no single country can provide the investment and the expertise in developing innovative new services and solutions to the kinds of issues confronting us today. Cooperation is therefore not merely good in itself (in furthering international understanding) it can have the practical effect of bringing together the resources and expertise needed to tackle global problems. Collections, resources and skills are complementary.

There have been numerous examples of successful international cooperation in the networked age, ranging from the development of the World Wide Web to recent work on codes and protocols. We need to work together, not least if the vision of a world-wide information network with great libraries as nodes is to be realised. We need to build the infrastructure, and perhaps change the culture, in order to enable effective cooperation to happen.