Application of the Library of Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL)

Redefining the information landscape

http://www.th-wildau.de/bibliothek2/spirl

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Acknowledgement

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Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt once said: “Libraries are the intellectual petrol stations of the nation.” In addition, libraries today are hubs of manifold ideas, initiate cross innovation and interdisciplinary networking. These are excellent examples of open solutions and a sustainable point of view. Successful developments and cutting edge technology create attractive public goods and services. Elements from RFID, mobile and multi-touch applications, indoor localisation to flipbooks constitute our concept and its use. Our mission, redefining the information landscape, is supported by three main pillars. The list of all components will close with the classic quote: quod erat demonstrandum.

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[http://www.th-wildau.de/bibliothek2/spirl](http://www.th-wildau.de/bibliothek2/spirl)
Summary

The candidate is located in a converted, old brick and mortar factory building which is now a site of historic interest. In this former factory, locomotives were disassembled in conveyable parts and prepared for transport by train from the station nearby. Since 2007, when the reconstruction was completed, our small team of 4.7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) main staff has been in charge of this inspiring venue, consisting of a mix of old and new. The interior is dominated by its breathtaking architecture after its conversion from an old factory into a modern collection and information space.

We are working on developing a new trans- or interdisciplinary-based information landscape through networking, third-party funding and in cooperation with members of the university. Our mission statement follows the intention to establish an attractive and cutting edge public service which has as its first goal, the aim to assist all customers and target groups according to the principles of S.R. Ranganathan’s famous and still valid “Five laws of library science” (1931).

In the second part of our mission statement, we aim to show all decision makers, near and far, how libraries can redefine themselves. This is done by reformulating the concept of library services, creating a dynamic cluster of innovation, by being open to customer-related suggestions and by adopting and integrating concepts from outside. The facelift will show how innovative this type of dust-free think tank is. Libraries must be seen as being an integral part of a knowledge-based society through their ability to come up with unexpected and surprising solutions.

Our main concept is to be characterized by three solid pillars. The first pillar is focused on the integration of open source solutions. The second pillar is to provide new ways of handling information in an academic environment. And the last one is based on developments in the scope of digital, mobile and radio-based products.

First Pillar: Integration of open source software

In different cases and for certain tasks the library works with open software. Our infrastructure cannot do without these important programs. The list of examples is long and highlights our disposition to share with each other.

For example, we have successfully included Serendipity as a blog and web-based content management system since 2007 and have extended its functionality to fit our needs by implementing self-developed tools. Our workflow and internal data are documented in a wiki, we host the open source LMS/ILS Koha for the public library in the neighbourhood, adjust and reuse the open source Lucene/Solr to set up our own discovery system called WILBERT, have an open access repository called OPUS, illustrate our linked open data thesaurus by iQvoc among others.

We realize that our work is just one part of a whole, but also recognize that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We carry out our work in a non-commercial context where everybody can join, share and benefit from our experience for their own needs. Behind all this, our intention is to have a transparent infrastructure and a commitment to sustainability.

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1 Books are for use. Every reader his [or her] book. Every book its reader. Save the time of the reader. The library is a growing organism.

2 LMS/ILS are abbreviations for integrated library system und library management system.
Second Pillar: Orchestration of information in reality

As a second pillar we accept the challenge for ourselves to use the given spatial reality to provide haptic and social formats of information and their dissemination. We get in touch with our customers, target groups and colleagues of other libraries directly so not to remain separated by the imposing digital practices. Furthermore, we organize new types of social events like flipbook presentations or sleepovers in the library, in general, to make reading and information perception more sociable. Other formats include lectures or book presentations, talks with policy makers (e.g. federal ministers), workshops on writing skills, exhibitions or concerts. We organize a common platform to personally share and join the exchange of experiences and competences.

In addition, we offer our knowledge for colleagues in the form of an annual two-day conference about technological innovations in RFID-matters\(^3\), Geocaching (treasure hunting by GPS\(^4\)) and scientific 3D-printing where we have also invited speakers from all parts of Europe and beyond (Turkey, Poland, Egypt, Vatican City, Hungary, France, Spain, UK, Switzerland, Austria) since 2008.

Our campus earned the reputation as an accepted venue for library conferences. In 2012, the large conference “The Regional Day of Libraries in Berlin and Brandenburg” took place, in which more than 200 participants attended and expecting a similar amount of interested colleagues this year’s conference will be the Friedrich Althoff consortium.

Moreover, we also provide, some of which have taken place more than seven times, one or two-day workshops for librarians about topics like RFID, IT-security, basics of computer science and methods of anthropological approaches to understanding clients. All are in high demand.

For one year now, we have been utilizing a 70 inch multi-touch screen close to the information desk to advertise our services and the help desk. It runs like a vibrant advertising pillar with changeable faces. We are using it for small and spontaneous guided tours, as an orientation display to find the right place in the three-storey library, to post news, show the capacity of usable work rooms and so on.

Third Pillar: Software engineering & data processing

The last pillar is composed of the in-house developments, thus hereby mixing our knowledge and understanding of internal procedures with our small team of developers to produce tailored solutions to suit our needs. This is most important in areas where commercial products are missing or not yet matured in a level to support our workflow and output efficiently and effectively.

Our main focus of attention is on the development of RFID based applications and in the improvement of the visualization and mobility of information (iLibrary). Wildau is an excellent and established university campus, where German engineering is prospering and we do very well, and a good place to seek the cooperation with other branches and initiate cross innovation. So we have the opportunity to achieve results for our own and for other libraries, as well as to push library services in a qualified step to a new level.

In a very familiar cooperation between our own small IT-group and the telematics and logistics engineering degree courses we developed a RFID based inventory system, as well as an ambulant smart-shelf, which keeps track of usage statistics for non-lendable journals. A browser-based plugin

\(^{3}\) RFID is the abbreviations for radio frequency identification.

\(^{4}\) GPS means global positioning system.
enriches our security information system with bibliographic data of the detected volume, in order to easily identify it among other books. Together we also developed and integrated a web-based RFID-enabled self checkout system (e.g. LMS/ILS Koha) and last but not least we suggested and submitted the international guideline standard for a certification process to measure the quality of security gates based on RFID technology (VDI 4478).

Our second focus point concerns a new form of presenting information with the aid of modern technologies. For this we started two projects, namely iCampus Wildau and iLibrary. The former provides overall information about the campus, such as its architecture and points of interest through 360° panorama pictures and audio tracks in English and German, whilst the latter specializes on the library services. The iCampus Wildau information can be accessed through both desktop and mobile (iOS) based interfaces, whereas the iLibrary system is available through multi-touch and mobile (iOS and Android) devices. A big advantage of the iLibrary structure is that its information distribution is managed through web services, which serve as an open APIs\(^5\) for any developer. Over these APIs, any other library with the same LMS/ILS from OCLC can subsequently use our Apps. The Apps offer more than just general information and a new interface for the library’s search capabilities, it permits to provide users with recommendations, and allows users to reserve work rooms, personalize their accounts, as well as locate library staff with the help of the positioning system in our three-storey space.

Other engineering work concerns software release to augment in a hierarchical system like thesaurus different levels as a polyhierarchical tool, furthermore web based software to gather and visualize all off- and online data with information about usage statistics in one centralized one-stop shop. In addition, we visualize our virtual collections and reference lists in different forms like flying book covers, cover flow animations and carousels.

All three pillars brought together are the strong basis of our concept: we achieved a broader audience with all our initiatives, projects and events as well as the infrastructure and all the content have been inspired both users and colleagues. The library is the flagship of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau. It has inspired other librarians and stakeholders, and gives one successful example of how a library with a new face redefined the information landscape as an invitation to be involved as a knowledgeable wanderer. Let’s close with: quod erat faciendum.

see also the URL for project: http://www.th-wildau.de/bibliothek2/spirl

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\(^5\) API is the abbreviation of application programming interface.
About us

The library of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau (TUAS) has about 4,300 students and 200 employees as target group. Everybody else outside the University can use the library as well.

Our main occupation is not only to administrate information, but also to offer high quality services to our clients and supply and encourage research and education.

Libraries are more than just a collection of literature, these offer a variety of courses and provide an adequate environment for individual or group work. University libraries are no exception, although, at least in the case of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, the library acts as an information beacon for students, as well. University libraries, just as its users, have been in constant change for many years and through the rise of the Internet these are in danger of being less frequented.

Additionally, libraries are metaphorically drowning in the amount of information they have, but struggle in making it known to their users. The visitors themselves, in this case predominantly students, often do not specifically know what they are looking for.

For example, the iLibrary project, therefore, aims for two main objectives, the first is to seek modern alternatives for the visual representation of and access to the various existing services, and bridge the gap between users and staff, as well as between users and the information. It began less than two years ago through funding granted by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with the goal of researching and developing a flexible and innovative system designed to improve and expand the library services and processes, in order to ease their use and bring these closer to users.

Having previously been awarded the library of the year 2012 in Germany, the library of the University of Applied Sciences Wildau has been a pioneer in the introduction of new technologies in libraries. Now, the library has succeeded in creating a centralised system, which does not only consolidate all library services, but extends its functionality through the introduction of personalisation, and its content by collecting meta data from public web services. The iLibrary system is currently available in distinct, but consistent, interfaces such as in smartphones, tablets and a large multi-touch display; visitors can therefore profit from the added mobility as well as enjoy the library experience through increased interactivity. The range of the new services extends from the use of a three dimensional model for a better visualisation of the library, to an indoor positioning system, as well as the introduction of trivial systems, such as a book reviews and ratings, and other less trivial, such as a literature recommendation system.

The systems have mainly been developed by informatics students during internships and as part of their theses; indubitably proof of its concrete architecture, but also a statement of its simplicity and easy adoption for new developers.

The authors strongly believe that university libraries, especially those with low funding, will benefit from this system.

Our nature to do things is our mission statement!
Nominator’s statement

We are acting after the leitmotif, in Latin, “Pro captu bibliothecarii habent sua fata bibliothecae”, translated: According to the capabilities of the librarian, libraries have their destiny. We think to be in accordance with this leitmotif.
The concept of “Redefining the information landscape”

Integration of open source software

Discovery & ILS/LMS

As an alternative solution and in addition to the out of fashion online catalogue, the TUAS Wildau library launched the discovery system Wilbert back in spring 2013. Wilbert offers many features going far beyond the search capabilities of the online catalogue: the user can search within almost 6,000,000 bibliographic items, including printed and electronic books, full texts of the TUAS Wildau, latest articles from selected journals, nationally licensed products and content from open access repositories like EconStor. Our bibliographic records are not locked away in silos anymore, but are detectable and visible via search engines like Google. Another advantage is the search experience: the Google-like search interface allows the user to enter any search term without thinking about the meaning of predetermined search fields. After submitting the search, the user can refine the results by choosing facets with formal or content related criteria like type of medium, keyword or year of publication.

In contrast to online catalogues, Wilbert uses search engine technology like Apache Solr and therefore performs a much quicker search. Based on the Solr index, Wilbert provides auto-complete functionality and offers alternative search queries. Furthermore, suitable ranking criteria can be defined and adapted to the information needs of our users.

The TUAS Wildau library was the first university library in Germany to use an open source discovery system. Wilbert is still in the fledgling stages. Together with our users we will figure out different optimization approaches to establish an even better search experience.

The TUAS Wildau library supports the public library of Wildau by hosting the library management system Koha for the organization of their stock.

Two more open source solutions are utilized for the management of publications. OPUS is used as an open access repository for electronic publications of the TUAS Wildau, including theses and research papers. For creating, publishing and reusing lists of publications the library provides PubLister, a user-friendly tool for the homogeneous handling of publications of the TUAS Wildau. With PubLister, created lists of publications can be reused on personal or institutional profile pages and via OPUS.

Thesaurus

For the advanced indexing of the library stock we started to develop micro-thesauri for the logistics degree programme. For the thesaurus creation we use the vocabulary management system iQvoc.

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6 http://wilbert.kobv.de
7 http://www.econstor.eu/
8 http://lucene.apache.org/solr/
9 http://www.koha.org/
10 http://www.kobv.de/opus4/
11 http://www.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/wiki/PubLister
12 http://iqvoc.net/
It provides an easy-to-use browser interface that builds a SKOS\textsuperscript{13} thesaurus in the background. The purpose is to integrate the thesauri in Wilbert in order to offer a better subject related search. This approach supports especially first year students with the possibility of browsing through a hierarchical alignment of a subject like logistics, discovering relations between the terms and providing an insight into established abbreviations or alternative labels.

Students of the TUAS Wildau were involved in the software development processes concerning the layout of iQvoc and the preparation of statistical information about the amount of preferred and alternative labels. These changes can be reused by other interested iQvoc users.

**Internal knowledge platforms**

For internal and project related documentation purposes, the TUAS Wildau library uses Serendipity\textsuperscript{14} and Mediawiki\textsuperscript{15}.

The blog software Serendipity is used by the library team as a compensation for a missing university intranet. Since 2007 more than 1,300 blog entries have been posted by the staff to inform all colleagues about library and work-related subjects. These include the organization and evaluation of events, reports about visited conferences and workshops, changes in work routines, etc.

For business processes and project documentation the library staff uses MediaWiki. This wiki software is used by large projects like Wikipedia and facilitates an easy and intuitive way of creating content collaboratively. The compiled content is constantly updated and provides a transparent knowledge base, giving every employee the opportunity to stay informed about work routines and projects.

\textsuperscript{13} SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System), a W3C recommendation, is a model for the representation of controlled vocabularies like taxonomies, classifications or thesauri.

\textsuperscript{14} \url{http://www.s9y.org/}

\textsuperscript{15} \url{http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki}
**Turning information into reality**

This pillar gives information a physical form. This form is determined by humans. For all of the following aspects you need a physical space to promote interaction between people and information.

**Conferences**

The TUAS Wildau library organizes and directs a variety of conferences on library related topics.

A great highlight is the annual library conference with the name “Wildauer Bibliothekssymposium – RFID and Beyond”. The conference has taken place since 2008. This international event offers several presentations and professional exchanges in various formats. Every year, about one hundred attendees participate in giving different presentations such as workshops, lectures, world cafés and a networking evening.

Our infrastructure is well thought of as well as being well established and we are often asked to organize other conferences, too. The library and our campus are frequently used as an attractive venue. As an example, our location was used for the “Regional day of the libraries for Berlin and Brandenburg” with more than 200 librarians. The slogan was “Libraries in the middle of the society”.

**Workshops**

Another way to share knowledge and experience is to set up special workshops for librarians. These workshops are usually supported by experts and professionals from other faculties. They are certificated and structured by different models, finishing with a multiple choice test. Since the first workshop we have taught more than one hundred people. Our offer of workshops focus on topics like RFID, IT-Security, basics of computer science and methods of anthropological approaches.

**Cultural and social events**

To present information in another form than in a book, every year we organize exhibitions, book readings, lectures and writing workshops. Since 2007 we have been based in this historical place and arranged around 50 events of these types. The library must also be a place to relax, so we are the venue of different orchestrations of concerts.

**New Formats**

As in a game, we try to create new formats of information related events. Let’s talk about this. A great new event was the storytelling presentation of flipbooks. This event went down very well with the audience. In a new project we would like to combine flipbooks with a story coming from frequently asked questions.

Three times we have invited our target groups and the interested public to a sleepover in the library. We had almost 200 guests. The idea is to establish reading as a happening. On these occasions we offer add something to the program like a night walk, handicraft work and quizzes.

16 [http://www.bibliothekssymposium.de/](http://www.bibliothekssymposium.de/)
A new challenge for material- and technology-oriented libraries is scientific 3D printing. In connection with our annual library conference we tested through 3D scanning and 3D printing a new way to create copies of the original. In this context we scanned our marble statue which is located at the entrance of the library. We have two key aims. At first to make this procedure transparent to the public. Secondly, to produce merchandising products through this process in order to give customers a gift to remember us by.

As a fourth example, we test new formats of presentation and discussion. During our different types of conferences we introduced the world café principle. We have arranged world cafes more than five times now. After a series of short lectures to the audience, the participants were separated in small discussion groups. These groups were guided by presenters. A rotation principle allows all participants to take part in each discussion group after a while. Everyone had something to say.

Another format will come this year first time. The objective is to give innovative ideas a storytelling stage. In 15 minutes the presenter can convince the audience of his topic by only talking about it. It is similar to the Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED)-Talk.
University libraries, just as its users, have been in constant change for many years and through the rise of the Internet these are in danger of being less frequented and even though libraries are metaphorically drowning in the amount of information they have, these struggle in making it known to their users. The visitors themselves, in this case predominantly students, often do not specifically know what they are looking for. Therefore, through university’s investments and with the aid of regional funding, the library of the TUAS Wildau decided to improve this situation by concentrating on two main objectives, the first is to seek modern alternatives for the visual representation of and access to the various existing services, and bridge the gap between users and staff, as well as between users and the information. Two projects have been introduced and are actively engaged in taking up these challenges. During the iCampus Wildau project, which began about 4 years ago, an information system was developed with the goal of providing visitors, students and anyone who is interested with information about the university, whilst giving in insight in the life and study opportunities in Wildau. Less than two years ago a second project, i.e. the iLibrary project, was granted funding by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with the goal of researching and developing a flexible and innovative system designed to improve and expand the library services and processes, in order to ease their use and bring these closer to users.

Having previously been awarded the library of the year 2012 in Germany, the library of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau has been a pioneer in the introduction of new technologies in libraries. Here, as part of the modernisation of any institution, the transition to digital services was of outmost importance. Now, the library has succeeded in creating a centralised system, which does not only consolidate all library services, but extends its functionality through the introduction of personalisation, and its content by collecting meta data from public web services. These services are currently available in distinct, but consistent, interfaces such as in smartphones, tablets and a large multi-touch display; visitors can therefore profit from the added mobility as well as enjoy the library experience through increased interactivity. The range of the new services extends from the use of a three dimensional model for a better visualisation of the library, to an indoor positioning system, as well as the introduction of trivial systems, such as a book reviews and ratings, and other less trivial, such as a literature recommendation system.

In order to achieve these goals, several sub-projects were built, which, besides being independent of each other, serve a greater purpose: the collecting of data for the improvement of library services and the overall library experience through the introduction of personalisation and mobility. The architecture and implementation strategy of the overall system is very straight forward: collect and distribute content through a centralised interface whilst creating applications that provide nothing more than a basic structure leaving therefore the programme logic and thus the implementation effort in the back-end. This is especially advantageous for the development of mobile applications, which require a longer release and distribution process.

It’s worth noting that both the iLibrary and iCampus systems have mainly been developed by telematics students during internships and as part of their theses; indubitably proof of its concrete architecture, but also a statement of its simplicity and easy adoption for new developers. The authors strongly believe that university libraries, especially those with low funding, will benefit from the systems and applications presented here.
Open API

Due to the fact that the intended applications must access several external sources, which use different structures and access methods, all content (i.e. incoming and outgoing) had to be managed by a central server, and subsequently, besides running all necessary processes, make the required information available through web services. Consequently, by serving as a funnel between all application-server interactions, the system has the ability to intersect the flow of information and query additional services, in order to improve, extend and complement any data. Developers have therefore access to the information through a defined and stable API and can be sure that, regardless of any changes in the semantics of external interfaces, the structure of these services will not change without previous notice.

As for the sources of content, besides the existing university’s library services, the new system retrieves information from the iCampus project server, which contains general information about the whole university including the library. Additionally, an indoor positioning system is used with the purpose of permitting employees to share their position within the library with students and faculty members. And lastly, some other external services are used to extend the library’s catalogue metadata, for example Amazon and Google web services, from which book covers and abstracts are retrieved.

The loosely coupling of the web services structure allows them to be easily extendible and adaptable to meet any needs, thus easing the adoption by other institutions; the only requirement is to have PHP and a database installed in their servers.

Mobile Application

The introduction of a mobile application it’s probably the key to a successful adoption of the new digital services by the users since it will appeal to the most important clientele, i.e. the students. Younger users are nowadays more used to accessing all the services they need through more modern and interactive interfaces, namely through their mobile devices. Based on the current trends, we have developed mobile apps for the two most used mobile operating systems, i.e. Android and iOS. These applications provide much more than a new interface for the searching of media. They provide users with an easier way of finding and navigating to media within the library (along the shortest path). Additionally, it gives logged in users access to their account allowing them to have an overview of their loans, and, for example, extend the loan period quick and easily whilst underway. By accessing the details of a book, journal or e-book users may now see a short abstract (if available), read and give ratings and reviews for any media (allowing students help each other find information and solutions faster), as well as having a list of literature of similar topic. The details of the book may be accessed through several options: through the search module; by having marked a book as a favourite; or by scanning a books barcode.

As mentioned before, as a method of making themselves more available, and thus further reduce the gap between them and the users, the library staff suggested implementing a system which allows anyone to localise them within the library. This module lists the name and expertise of each staff member along with their image. Users can hereby call them, view their live position (if activated) or locate their office. The indoor positioning system used to achieve this is explained further below.
Other information, such as the availability of workrooms, with the possibility of making a reservation, and other more general information such as the library’s opening hours is also made more easily accessible through the mobile application.

These applications have been developed in such a way that they only provide a hollow structure based on the library web services, with the purpose of facilitating any future changes or adaptations. Another big advantage of the implemented strategy is that there is a single source code for both the smartphone and tablet version. This means that updating and adapting the code for different devices is easier, since it will require less development time.

**Multi-touch displays**

Almost a year ago, a 70 inch multi-touch display was installed in the library with the goal of providing a central information point for visitors, with the goal of replacing the conventional information boards. With the use of multi-touch interactive interfaces visitors have the possibility of discovering the library and its services on their own in a more dynamic way. This display will help users to quickly access frequently asked questions, how-tos (e.g. how to lend a book or how to print), as well as provide photos, videos and audio recordings of past events.

Currently, only a few modules have been developed, although many are planed for future implementation. The most common applications are the search module and a three dimensional representation of the library. The former allows users to browse literature by their covers, as well as view literature relevant to their studies, whereas the latter provides an overview of the library’s layout; short descriptions about certain areas in the library; and helps visualize how the library is organized. Through the implemented framework, these modules can communicate between each other, thus allowing the users to visualise the media’s location in the three dimensional model.

One of the hurdles we faced was that multi-touch frameworks are almost none existent and the ones available did not provide the needed flexibility (e.g. use of three dimensional models, integration of existing widgets, a big community). For this reason, and in view of the advantages of a web-based solution, we decided to develop these applications using web technologies, which allow developers to take advantage of existing JavaScript libraries, thus greatly reducing development time. In this regard, the library is developing a simple, but robust framework, which will not only allow the modules to safely communicate between each other by protecting them and the system from malicious code, but will also create an abstraction of the default HTML behaviour, for example the fact that there may be only one virtual keyboard (and one focused input field) at a time, the framework has to manage its own fields and keyboards so that the application may be used by several users at once.

Another big advantage of using web-based applications is that librarians and administrators can create and update each module independently through a content management system (CMS) without the need of any programming knowledge.
RFID in the library

As many of our developed software solutions with RFID are already described in the summary, this part focuses on two main components which demonstrate our competences best.

The concept of using RFID tags for marking printed media has already been used for many years in several libraries, but only few have recognized the advantages such strategy brings. Besides for security reasons (i.e. determining if someone is taking a book outside the library without having gone through the lent procedure) and for self-checkout systems, the library of the University of Applied Sciences Wildau has developed its own RFID based inventory software. Inventories are important for libraries since it allows them to keep control of their assets. It does not only provide a method for determining losses within the library, but also helps staff members to quickly restore the book order in shelves. The use of RFID, as opposed to manually comparing the current state with the target state, speeds up the inventory process considerably since validations are performed automatically.

The implementation of RFID within the library is not only constrained to its aforementioned use. During the iCampus project, an RFID based indoor positioning system was first researched and installed in the library with the goal of allowing staff to share their location with the visitors, and, although initial tests were performed, it was only during the last few months that the system took form.

The positioning system, named OpenBeacon was developed in collaboration with the German company Bitmanufaktur GmbH, which provided both the hardware and initial positioning algorithms. The calculation is performed by the triangulation of RFID signals received by the moving object from several beacons installed in different positions within the library. After summarising the received packages into a single package, the RFID tag forwards the data to the server application where the calculation is done. This method allows a precise location of a stationary object, but sometimes faces an error rate of about five to ten meters for moving objects. Nevertheless, the current results suffice for the intended services.

As a method for increasing the accuracy of the position, a graph, which is primarily used to define the position of bookshelves (and therefore the library media) and for the calculation of shortest paths, is used here with the purpose of maintaining the calculated position within a walkable path. Both the graph (i.e. nodes and bookshelf information) and the position are available through web services, thus enabling other developers to integrate this information in their applications.

Personalisation of services

The personalisation of digital services has been a very successful strategy for several online applications. Normally described as recommender systems, companies have managed to use special algorithms to suggest users relevant items based on their own actions. But, due to the relatively small user base, creating behaviour profiles was not an option. However, the library already has a lot of information pertaining to their users, since these are (in majority) students. The objective here was to present the students with literature, which they may find of interest. The first step was to create a correlation between the library media by giving a rating based on the relevance of their subjects (a high rating corresponds to a higher relevance). Due the low amount of keywords for each medium and large variation between media, it was necessary to derive new keywords out of their titles and the gathered abstracts. Additional keywords were also extracted from web services such as
Amazon and Google APIs. Having mapped the library media to each other, the next step was to determine the relationship between the university’s degree courses and each item. Again, it is needed to compare the degree course attributes, which are extracted from the university’s module descriptions, with the aforementioned media keywords. In order to improve the results, a higher ranking is given to items, which are relevant (i.e. of similar topic) to the literature recommended by professors.

This is an automated process, which could theoretically be used by other university libraries. Beginning by the search for abstracts and cover images to the extraction of new keywords out of existing text and open APIs (i.e. extension of meta data), both the mapping of literature according to their relevance and degree courses is done automatically. New adopters must keep in mind that the time to perform the needed comparisons will depend on the size of the library’s catalogue. Nevertheless, the overall comparison must be performed only once, since all new acquired items will be mapped individually, as soon as these are added to the catalogue.

We wish to further refine this personalisation through the integration of the students’ timetables and grades. Ideally, taking the structure of the university’s seminar groups into consideration, one could deduce which lessons a student attends and base the literature recommendation on this, but since there is still a certain flexibility in this structure, such as with foreign students, which may attend some specific lectures, making a general assumption for a single seminar group would be erroneous. Moreover, by using a student’s grades as guidance, it would be possible to present the student with literature, which might help them to pass a test. We also wish to use statistics of the media marked as favourite to see which literature is most common within degree courses.

**Congregation and visualization of data**

Over the time libraries generate more and more data in many forms of heterogeneous informations on a variety of places, which, for example, show the number of downloads of virtual collections, the number of circulated books, the frequency of reserved rooms or the usage of non circulating media. These sources of data exist in different formats, structures and, most importantly, in large amounts which are hard to read or interpret by humans. In Biblovis, a project funded by a third party, it is now possible to unite these different data sources into one centralized platform in order to compare and visualize the results by configurable parameters like time span or value.
Principal Players

Frank Seeliger (*1970) In the first part of my professional life I completed a vocational training as an electrician before the fall of the wall. I then pursued studies in the field of Cultural Anthropology, leading first to a Master’s and subsequently to a Doctor’s degree. In the second part of my professional life I followed postgraduate studies to become an academic librarian at the Humboldt University in Berlin at the Institute of Library Science (Institut für Bibliothekswissenschaft); five years ago, I was awarded with my certificate in library science. Since 2006 I have been the head of the academic library at the University of Applied Sciences Wildau, a town in the Federal State Brandenburg, located in the outskirts of Berlin. I am dealing, among other things, with all topics of interests regarding RFID-developments at this institution. On top of this, I am very interested in following and adopting in my own library context a lot of open source solutions and testing new developments to manage LMS/ILS, self-check-systems, intranets, to present visuals and so on.

Janett Mohnke (*1967) studied computer science at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. She received her diploma in 1991 and made her PhD in 1999. For several years, she has lived in and worked at different, interesting places like Saarbruecken in Germany, Princeton and Stanford in the U.S.A., and finally Berlin in Germany again. Since 2008 she has been professor of technical computer science at Technical University of Applied Sciences in Wildau (which is close to Berlin in Germany) teaching students who want to become experts in building telematics systems. Her research interests are focused on several aspects in the field of embedded systems, parallel computing, and mobile information systems.

Alfredo Azmitia (*1987) studied telematics at the University of Applied Sciences Wildau in Wildau, Germany. In anticipation to concluding his Master thesis at the end of April 2013, he received the 2012 DAAD award for outstanding achievement of foreign students in German universities. Besides his work experience in Berlin and Brandenburg, he has worked in Saint Petersburg, Russia, as an IT Engineer and Graphics Developer, and in Guatemala City, Guatemala, his home country, as an assistant of GSM Network Planning and Optimization. His interests and expertise are web technologies, developing front- and back-end logic and design for web and mobile applications, as well as 3D modeling.

Pit Oertel (*1988) My education started 2010 as a specialists in media and information services at the University of applied Sciences Wildau in the academic library. I finished the training in 2013 and was further employed as project staff in the university library. Through the training of specialist in media and information services / library I got to know different and interesting tasks in librarianship, these included the new acquisition and cataloging of media, work on the reference desk and the contact to the library users, but also the public relations and shaping of events was one of them. Below I worked on two publications reporting on new types of events in the university library, and have been reprinted in two well-known German library journals. I’m interested in the design of event formats and the involved on public relations at the university library of the TH Wildau.
Friederike Borchert (*1985) finished her library studies in 2010 at the UAS in Potsdam, Germany. Since then she has been working on different library related projects in the fields of digitalization (Bonn University Library), data management (UAS Potsdam) and data modeling & linked data (GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences). Since April 2013 Friederike is working at the library of the TUAS Wildau as a member of the thesaurus team. Additionally she is pursuing her Master studies in Crossmedia Management in Leipzig, Germany.

Jan Kissig (*1982)
In 2007 I began working as a student in the library of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau as part of my Bachelor Thesis on the conversion-processes of RFID. This was my first contact with this technology and since then it became my daily routine. 2010 I finished my Master of Engineering in Telematics (telecommunications and informatics) and since then I am working as staff at the university library. My work areas cover system administration, RFID-application development and web development, all with the focus on library processes and creating interfaces to our users. My latest projects were mainly web-based and RFID-enabled programs which include a new approach on inventory and self check systems to get out the most of the used RFID solutions.
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Poster

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Seeliger, Frank; Kissig, Jan; Basilowski, Nico
2011 "Einsatz von Open Source Software in der Hochschulbibliothek der TH Wildau (FH)" auf 100. Bibliothekartag, Berlin

Azmitia, Alfredo; Mohnke, Janett; Seeliger, Frank
Letter of Support for the Library of the Technische Hochschule Wildau for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries

When Dr. Frank Seeliger, head of the library of the TH Wildau, asked me to write this letter of support I was excited as my support and belief in Dr. Seeliger and his team is a result of nearly eight years of inspiring work together. As the architects of the building I feel not only an honor from his request but especially a firm belief of support for what Dr. Seeliger, his team and the University as a whole, have made out of the building and its spaces.

I, together with my partner and our office conceived the spatial qualities, the light and the aura of the place. Using concrete, steel, wood and glass and their composition together with the history of the existing building, we created a place for the library. It is however Dr. Seeliger and his team that breathe life into what otherwise is only an architectural shell and spaces.

Our contract called for the conversion of the empty old building to provide facilities for both a large cafeteria and a modern book and media library for the university. Through our design research we came to understand our project as part of a long-term metamorphosis whereas our project would finally, after nearly 90 years, complete the, until then, uncompleted building. The original building plans from the 1920’s called for a seven bayed building of which however, for reasons no longer known, only six bays we realized. The missing bay and eastern gable were simply left away and the building was closed with a temporary wall suggesting the desired completion at a later date. Without its representative Gabel, the hall was a “faceless” a gate on its important urban location.

Our proposal was to “continue” the original design, completing the building to its intended length and to finally give the building its missing urban gable or “face” however as an expression of its new function. The spatial quality of the building, inside as well as outside, is created through the dialog of its parts, its materials and its time structure of old and new.

The large space of the library is designed as an atrium underneath the old central skylight. The new levels of the library are oriented to the atrium with reading desks with reading rooms located on the new gable façade. The existing skylight was re-interpreted as a “lantern” for the new library. The generously glazed volume of this “lantern” provides natural daylight into the depths of the library whereas at night the “lantern” reverses and radiates symbolically this place of learning.

The large central space of the library was and is the heart of the design. We conceived this space as a large room, an innermost room, not only of the library but of the whole campus in experience and in memory. A place to be as well as a place to remember; Intimate and public at the same time.

As an architect it is always a relief but also not without a certain feeling of “remorse” to hand over a finished building. Abandoning it or setting it free? It is seldom the case, as it is here with the Wildau Library, that we feel we actually created something like a musical instrument and Dr. Seeliger and his staff are the musicians. Not only do they polish and care for it, but with new ideas and innovative technologies they make the building “sing”. They organize events, concerts and readings in the central space and experiment with it’s personal as well as it’s technological/digital usage. Every time I visit the library I encounter a vibrant space that is filled with an air of vitality. The library emits a wonderful unitity or “wholeness” of architecture and usage that creates “place”.

I feel personally very connected with this innovative and living library and wish highly to recommend its impressive diversity and empathy for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries.

Kind regards,

Prof. Robert Niess
Zürich, 7. January 2014

Letter of Support
for the Application of the Library of Technical University of Applied Sciences in Wildau for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL)

I know Dr. Seeliger since 2006, when he approached me and asked if he could visit me to see and discuss the change management I had applied to the former Corporate Library of Boehringer Ingelheim, to transform this unit into a state-of-the-art information center for a major pharmaceutical company.

I was impressed that someone newly appointed in the academic library environment would want to discuss future developments and directions with someone in the corporate space. At that time the transformation of well-frequented corporate libraries into virtual functions with minimum contact to the users was no longer a process but reality. Secondly, corporate libraries started to use new IT technologies to add new services to their portfolios. These services were very specifically tailored to certain user groups. For Frank Seeliger it was apparent that such a process will also happen to some extent in academic libraries and he was eager to select and apply those technologies and services the Technical University at Wildau would benefit from. I was deeply impressed how quickly the Library at Wildau changed and soon became a lighthouse to other academic libraries.

I am, therefore, delighted to express my sincere support for the Library’s application for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries. I can even more support this as I have left the corporate environment in 2012 to take over a new role in the academic field. Heading now the Chemistry | Biology | Pharmacy Information Center of the ETH Zürich, a function that developed out of the former Chemistry Library, I can even better judge how extraordinary the achievements are. Achievements, that position the Library of Technical University of Applied Sciences in Wildau among the top libraries in its class.

Frank Seeliger managed not only to adopt new innovative IT technologies but also to develop new, innovative services that met the needs of users, which they were often even not aware of before. He successfully avoided to implement technologies just because they were available but thought first about users’ needs and how the new technologies could be used. Thus, all his projects were not only innovative but also sustainable and progressed very successfully. Frank Seeliger is always eager to share his knowledge and build communities of practice. To do so he has set up several meetings and conferences, allowing others to benefit not only from Wildau’s experiences but also from technology that was developed there, e.g., the “Wildauer Bibliothekssymposium” and numerous workshops.

Summing up, I would be very pleased if the Library of Wildau would successfully be considered for the 2014 SPIRL Award, acknowledging eight years of ongoing and sustainable library innovations coming from a very small but very dedicated team. These innovations are very valuable not only for the users of the Technical University of Wildau but beneficial for the entire library community.

Dr. Oliver Renn
Mr.
Dr. Frank Seeliger
Director of the University Library
TH Wildau (FH)
Bahnhofstrasse / Halle 10
15745 Wildau

Potsdam, 10 January 2014

Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Dr. Seeliger,

TH Wildau as a small University of Applied Sciences has set an ambitious target in scientific landscape, the reformulation of a tangible information landscape as commons.

This will be supported by three immutable pillars: the first involves the integration of open source solutions, the second is the development of new digital, mobile and radio-based products and the third relies on the other and distributing an unusual combination of information.

For various internal and external tasks, the university library will integrate existing software solutions, so among other things, Blog software such as Serendipity as an intranet, wiki for the documentation of business processes, the integration of Lucene / Solr as Discovery system or the use of OPUS as Open Access Server.

The library sees through close collaboration with the engineering courses logistics and telematics their special competence in the area of RFID. She developed viable scenarios for continuous RFID inventory, methods for measuring usage of not loanable media, plug-ins, browser based self-checkout operations continue as VDI 4478 standards for quality assurance of RFID gates.

The use of current technologies such as "Indoor Positioning", "Open API", "Mobile Applications" or "multi-touch display" mean that the library experience will be modern and user-centered appropriately.

On the part of the Hasso Plattner Institute as a university center of excellence for IT-Systems Engineering and its funded by the dynamic founder personality Professor Hasso Plattner D-Schools with locations in Potsdam and Stanford, we see a realization of this very significant project with great interest contrary and recommend that the TH Wildau partake in a promotion by the "Stanford Prize for Innovation in research Libraries" (SPIRL).
I support this project and I recommend it strongly.

Sincerely

[Signature]

Professor Dr. Christoph Meinel
Letter of Support for the UAS Wildau Library Application for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries

Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to express my sincere support for the UAS Wildau Library Application for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries.

I write as a user of this library since it entered new state-of-the-art premises several years ago, and as a university lecturer whose students use the library. The efforts of the chief librarian, Dr. Frank Seeliger, and his team, to transform this library into a pioneering communications and media center have been truly remarkable, not least when the speed of this development is taken into account. User Apps, RFID systems, state-of-the-art and new guidance and cataloguing systems have all been developed and implemented with great success. But it is not these that I wish to concentrate on in my recommendation. This library plays an extended community role that is truly exceptional for a university and research library belonging to a small university for business and engineering.

An impressive series of events, open to and welcomed by the general public, is one pillar of this commitment to the community. Book readings are held in cooperation with local bookstores. The library opens its doors overnight and sets up camp beds to host a reading stay over. Theatre events are held, with, for example, stage shows such as a flipbook theater evening – an event I coorganized, and which Frank Seeliger jumped at as an opportunity. It is this openness to events for a broader community which is both innovative and plays a key role in dissemination and outreach for the University of Applied Sciences Wildau.

A series of events that was truly unique was held in the library in 2011 and 2012. Top politicians were invited and spoke to and answered questions from the general public (not just invited audiences). These included a former German federal president (Horst Köhler), a national government minister for education (Annette Schavan), and the head of the opposition at the time and chairman of the Social Democratic Party (Sigmar Gabriel). For a "provincial" library outside of the capital city, this was some achievement.

Events are held that are targeted at students too, such as writing workshops with coaching and seminars. The library opens its doors to students looking to book rooms to hold their own meetings and seminars, and works closely with university teachers to ensure excellent onboarding to the library facilities for new students.

It was now nearly twenty-five years ago that I began to use libraries in and around the city of Berlin, and I lost count at around thirty different academic, institutional and public libraries that I have used. Of all of these, the UAS Wildau library stands out for its bright architecture, its small but highly dedicated and remarkably helpful staff, and its integration into university and community life. And, finally – when I order new books for this library (an "old" medium that Frank Seeliger’s team have never neglected while they have rigorously pursued new media), these are frequently purchased and ready on the shelf within fourteen days.

I warmly recommend this small but exquisite library for your prize.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Bond

January 8, 2014
Letter of Support to the librarian members of the Stanford University Libraries Advisory Council, who have agreed to serve as judges for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL)

In my capacity as Director General of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the largest academic library in the German-speaking region, I wholeheartedly endorse the application of the library of the Technische Hochschule Wildau to be considered for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL). I wish the Director, Herr Seeliger, and his colleagues every success in beating off challenges from the competing institutions.

The 4,000-student institution is the largest technical university of applied sciences in the state of Brandenburg, the state that contains the federal capital, Berlin.

In 2012 the Library was the deserved winner of the coveted Library of the Year Award, the only library prize conferred in Germany that is national in scope. The Award, in which Wildau overcame strong competition from across the Federal Republic, rates libraries according to the following criteria:

- quality and innovation in library work
- gearing for the future
- sustainable achievement
- attractive services
- media exposure for public-relations work
- international exchange of knowledge
- networking at local, regional and international level

Frank Seeliger, the Library’s director, is singularly adept at providing, with a skeletal team, all the standard services expected of a library while also developing and implementing many innovative ideas. With the few resources at its disposal, Wildau goes quietly about its business of delivering consistently high quality.
The Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL) would be a highly deserved accolade for the Library and also send a message in favour of federalism in innovation. It would recognise the meritorious work being done by relatively small institutions on the fringe of the big players.

I urge the members of the jury to honour the achievements of the Wildau-Hochschulbibliothek.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

Barbara Schneider-Kempt
Director General

Dear Members of the Panel,

I am pleased to write in support of the application of the University of Applied Sciences Library Wildau for the award of this year’s SPIRL award.

During a career in library automation spanning over 40 years – beginning at the British Library in 1972 – it has been my privilege to work with many of the world’s ‘movers and shakers’ in both Europe and North America. Prominent among them is undoubtedly Dr Frank Seeliger and his team at UAS Wildau.

Thanks to their efforts the university enjoys a considerable reputation for excellence in library research. As the organiser of Europe’s most prestigious library RFID event – their annual symposium is held every September - I have been fortunate to meet with Dr Seeliger on a number of occasions, both when invited to speak at the Berlin symposium and as a fellow presenter at IFLA’s Special Interest Group meetings on RFID in both Puerto Rico and Finland.

UAS Wildau has for many years pioneered the greater exploitation of RFID technology in libraries and I can testify from personal experience (as a committee member of them all) that much of the work carried out in their research laboratories has informed the development of standards now endorsed by organisations such as the International Standards Organisation (ISO), British Standards Institute (BSI) and the National Information Standards Organisation (NISO).

Despite being used in libraries for more than 15 years RFID has delivered relatively little benefit to both clients and managers beyond the facilitation of self-service loan and returns (check-out and check-in). UAS Wildau have however seen the greater potential of the technology for innovation – from using RFID with smartphones to optimise item location, through to tracing staff members anywhere in its buildings.

Their RFID projects are however only one manifestation of a commitment to the practical application of technology that epitomises the philosophy of UAS Wildau, and its RFID Symposium just one event among many organised each year to promote the exchange of new ideas, develop new solutions and maximise the potential of libraries throughout Europe to deliver services of the highest quality.
Recognition of the contribution being made to the wider application of a technology largely overlooked by the global library market by this small but dedicated group of library professionals would not only be rightful reward for their dedication but might also encourage libraries everywhere to investigate their own use of RFID.

I wholeheartedly recommend Dr Seeliger and his team for your prestigious award.

Yours sincerely

Michael Fortune
Letter of Support
Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries

I first visited the Library of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau in October 2011. What I saw and learned impressed me deeply. The interior of this old factory building struck me, especially the way in which the historic architecture effortlessly merged with the reconstruction of the site to create a modern library and learning centre. Throughout my tour of the library, it was great to experience the staff’s enthusiasm and their commitment to the library’s many innovative projects, intended to link an effective learning environment with innovative project ideas. I was not surprised when I learned that the institution and its projects were awarded the title “Library of the Year” in Germany a year later.

In my continued conversations with the library director, Mr. Frank Seeliger, I got a good understanding of Wildau Technical University’s impressive development. Within little more than twenty years since Germany’s reunification, the institution has re-established the strong tradition of engineering in the area southeast of Berlin. In many ways, its library is the campus’ backbone, a Mecca for students, and a place of which Wildau is proud.

Libraries are an essential and indispensable part of our educational infrastructure. They shape the future of our knowledge-based society because they open up access to knowledge and information to everyone. At the same time, they serve to promote the high value of equal opportunity. In this spirit, which the Wildau University Library exemplifies, I was happy to assume patronage of the “Regional Day of Libraries in Berlin and Brandenburg” conference, held in Wildau in September 2012.

Among the library’s many projects that I got to know, I was especially impressed, for instance, by software developed for RFID applications, designed to improve customer service in the library. In this as in many other projects, the library successfully works together with many other departments at the University. The library at the heart of this academic center exemplifies both the German legacy of engineering and a spirit of pioneering and innovation.

It is with pleasure and personal conviction that I enthusiastically recommend Library of the Wildau Technical University for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

17.01.2014
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