Working places, furniture and technology:
Strategies of flexibility of university library buildings –
the case of Bozen/Bolzano
1. Preface: The magic term „flexibility“
1.1 „Flexibility“ – as the basic principle of modern library buildings
1.2 „Flexibility“ – in hybrid library times

Hybrid library qualities:

• Learners have different preferences
• Learning is more collaborative
• Technology is developing rapidly
• Access to network resources is universal
1.3 „Flexibility or adaptability of space is a key criterion“ (A. McDonald)

Hybrid library features:

- As few permanent internal walls as possible
- The systematic zoning of areas for different activities
- An extensive and accessible network and power grid to enable the connection of reader places
- Load bearing floors sufficient for book stacks throughout the building
2. The learning center idea

• G. Bulpitt: A learning center is a dynamic environment which integrates provision to support a range of independent and group learning activities

• S. Bennett: The goal of academic libraries today is supporting collaborative learning.
3. Qualities of a student-centred library space

- Flexibility – the ability to reconfigure layout to match users´changing requirements

- Variety – the provision of a „family“ of spaces that facilitate different forms of learning
4. The concept of the university library of Bozen/Bolzano

- (Multimedia) Information center of the university and the region
- Innovative and internationally minded
- Library as place to study and to learn
5. The aspect of flexibility in the design and the building of the university library of Bozen
5.1 Main characteristics of the library facility
2. and 3. Floor
4. Floor
5.2 Variety of different workplaces
2. and 3. Floor
2. and 3. Floor
5.3 Lighting and Acoustics in the „hybrid library“
Lighting situation in the Bozen Building

- Channeling and filtering (of the daylight)
- Zoning (of the work places)
- Optimizing (by artificial light)
März 04
Klaus Kempf
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Anti-noise strategy

- „Classical“ remedies
- Sufficient depth of space
- Zoning of usage areas
5.4 Flexibility in technology – The local area network (LAN)
5.5 Flexibility in furnishing
Conclusion

Not a perfect world, but a highly functional and convenient learning environment