

Session 9, Friday

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The architect's mask: the university project in Venice

Abstract

The contribution will deal the state of progression of the projects relating to the whole reorganization of Ca' Foscari University libraries' structures. The University has in the last five years been pursuing the difficult aim of unifying the 26 University's libraries into 5 buildings. The libraries are at present situated in 33 different University premises, which are almost all situated in the historical centre of Venice.

The paper will start with the experience which has been acquired in order to face the difficulties caused by the peculiarities of the lagoon City. It will then concentrate on the important role plaid by university Librarian in coordinating the activities between the University as customer and the architects as the designers involved in the new buildings' plans or in restoration works.

The analysis of the role of the project coordinator will be examined considering the peculiar situation of Italian Universities, which are going through a period of reforms, which unfortunately are not adequately financed, especially considering the possible plans and programs for improvement and innovative structures.

Furthermore attention will be devoted to professional skills laying on the borderline between architects and librarian professions. Improving these borderline skills is in fact the best way of realizing collaboration really effective and useful to manage projects for new libraries that will be adequate for their future role.

CV

Alessandro Bertoni is the Director of the Library of Università Ca' Foscari in Venice.

He is involved in the projects of technical innovation of the Library Services and particularly in the projects of new structures. He collaborated also in new library buildings' projects during his experience of twenty-years in the faculty of Economics of Modena University, where he worked as librarian.

At present he is a member of the IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section.

He was Coordinator of the National Commission of the AIB, the Italian Libraries Association, from 1991 to 1996, and he is still an active member. He is also one of the founders of the professional discussion list AIB-CUR.

He contributed to more than 50 congresses and conferences in Italy and abroad, discussing a large number of topics, such as technological innovations and efficiency evaluations.

Alessandro Bertoni has been a member of some commissions of the University's Ministry, like The Gruppo di Lavoro per il Sistema Bibliotecario Universitario and the Research Group on Libraries' Measurement and Evaluation.

He is the Ca' Foscari Rectoral delegate in the Commission for Libraries and in the Commission for Museums of the CRUI organization (Rectors' Conference of the Italian Universities).