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The battle for good library buildings

Abstract

To build new libraries or to rebuild old ones is a complex activity for librarians. The experiences with the programming and the promotion of library buildings in Freiburg, Karlsruhe, Heidelberg and Goettingen show the sometimes tortuous ways and the varying means to succeed.

CV

Elmar Mittler is Professor of book and library sciences and head of the State and University Library Goettingen, one of the leading German academic libraries. It is running a lot of German, European and international projects in the field of the digital library development as leader or participant (metadata, digitization of journals, subject portals for internet resources etc.). He has a lot of experience with new and old library buildings.

He studied at the universities of Bonn and Freiburg/Breisgau and graduated in 1966. He has been deputy director of the University Library in Freiburg/Breisgau (1970-1974), head of the Badische Landesbibliothek in Karlsruhe (1974-1979) and the University Library in Heidelberg (1979-1990) before he started his work in Goettingen in 1990.

He is Dr. h.c. of the Sorbonne, Paris, Honorary Professor at the Institut fuer Buchwissenschaft (University of Mainz), he is also past-president of LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) and works for several national and international boards in the field of copyright, digitization and library consortia. He is chairman of the LIBER architecture group.