

Abstract

New planning principles are required to meet the changing needs of the users of the library of the future.

The digital revolution has changed the appearance of today's libraries entirely: The majority of today's information resources are of a non-physical nature and accessing information is more varied and complex. The traditional role as asset keeper is one of many tasks today.

The recently completed examples of Dresden and Göttingen State- and University Library, the Seattle Public Library and the Idea Stores in London, all of them highly popular and frequented, show current trends in library design. What do they offer their visitors?

1. Access to information
2. Guidance (information skills)
3. Possibility for communication
4. Working environment
5. Inspiring atmosphere

Their design is based on the following main principles:

1. Access to the library and its medias should be obvious and easy for everybody.
2. There should be multifarious space for formal and informal communication between customers and staff.
3. The interior should offer an attractive and comfortable environment for both customers and staff.
4. The library building should adequately represent its institutional philosophy and aims.
5. Its building design, structure and appliances should give consideration to sustainability.

Biography

Tina Hohmann is Subject Librarian for Business, Horticulture, Art & Design at Writtle College in Essex, U.K. since October 2005.

She graduated in Architecture at Darmstadt University in 1998.

Between 1996 and 2002 she was working in architectural practices in Wiesbaden, Traunstein and Berlin on private, ecclesiastical and commercial projects.

In 2002 she achieved a 2nd price for the art competition "Memorial for the dead Jews" for the city of Mannheim.

She decided to develop further her academic skills to get involved in the information sector. She gained practical experience at Darmstadt University Library and earned a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Applied Sciences Cologne in 2005.

In her Master Thesis "Design Criterias of Library Buildings" she analysed the relationship between the role of the library and its building design. With reference to new library buildings in Germany and the US Faulkner-Brown's Commandments were discussed and updated. To meet current trends and changing requirements she developed present-day design criterias. Main parts of the thesis were published in May 2005.

Current projects at Writtle College include the development of E-learning and promoting Art and Design in the Environment.