



Public Libraries Section Congress Report

The Public Libraries Section held two program sessions and two working meetings at the Leipzig congress. All four sessions were held at the Leipziger Stadtbibliothek (Leipzig public library).

The first program session was titled “What’s New in German Public Libraries”. Our first speaker, Manfred Ullrich (Stadtbücherei Würzburg), presented his use of Instagram to promote the Würzburg library in “#Treppenhausfreitag – the Instagram account of the Stadtbücherei Würzburg”, and included helpful hints for those of us just starting out on Instagram. Our second speaker, Stefan Domes (Städtische Bibliotheken Dresden), introduced us to Dresden’s new library in “BiboPhil – Die neue Zentralbibliothek mit Musikbereich in Dresden”. Our final speaker, Susanne Hein (Zentral- und Landesbibliothek, Berlin), described programming introducing adults to musical apps in “How to enrich the service of music libraries with musical apps”.

The second program session, “Changing to Meet our Users’ Needs”, featured two speakers. Our first speaker was Marcel Prochaska (Stadtbücherei Frankfurt), whose presentation “Profilierung von Musikbibliotheken in Zeiten des digitalen Wandels: der Weg der Musikbibliothek der Stadtbücherei Frankfurt” introduced the Vinyl-Bar for digitization, and various workshops for music apps and programs thus making the library relevant for its users. Our second speaker, Marko Allan Aho (Sastamala City Library, Finland), discussed his plans for upcoming music performances in “The public library as a site of empowerment for the local music scene”. All five of the speakers offered practical ideas that public librarians can borrow for their own libraries.

At our first working meeting, the section approved goals for the 2019. The first is to promote public music libraries and public music librarianship through the use of social media. The second is to update the Public Libraries Section page on the IAML website. Blanka Ellederová, nominee for section chair, had an opportunity to introduce herself (prior to the election the next day). The public librarians at the working meeting also participated in a discussion of issues of interest, including usage of scores and compact discs, shrinking collections, the impact of streaming on CD use and collections, space issues, and programming.

The second working meeting consisted of a grand tour of the public library, focusing on the music library. Tours were conducted in German and English. Many thanks to Brigitte Geyer and the staff of the music library for their hospitality.

Blanka Ellederová from the Municipal Library of Prague was elected chair of the Public Libraries Section for a two-year term. Congratulations! Blanka’s election fulfilled the section’s goal for 2018 of electing a new chair.

Carolyn Dow

Public Libraries Section, Vice Chair