

# “Next Generation Library Systems (NGLS) in Germany” (ALMA, WMS)

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# Opportunities and risks of NGLS

## e. g ALMA and WMS

- Electronic Resource Management (ERM) functionalities are a new key issue in the range of functionalities in new systems.
- Reporting and statistics functionalities have been significantly further developed.
- More standardization through “Software as a Service” (SaaS) portfolios. But reduced consideration for local or regional particularities or features.
- New infrastructures for library data incl. easier access to international data services and separation from regional (German) network-databases.
- Increased efficiency through outsourcing of the systems (hardware) basis → “cloud” und through standardisation of workflows - **Data sovereignty, data protection and data security?**

# Standardization

- The introduction of company-driven standards requires an effective ‘change management’, which should certainly not mean that the use of these new software systems stands under the ‘dictate’ of these companies.
- Some scope to move is definitely left to libraries, although this space is considerably smaller than what we are accustomed to.
- Possible restrictions are compensated by interfaces and ‘app galleries’ with which libraries can increase their range of functionalities → new ‘own/local’ workflows. However service and maintenance of these locally implemented components are in the responsibility of the libraries.
- Many changes and related reluctances, because the former systems seem to be more efficient.

# Library data infrastructure

- The current data available for acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation and user services ....
  - Bibliographic data for shared cataloguing
  - Authority data (GND)
  - User and service data (issues and usage data etc.)
  - Bookseller and publisher data
  - Licensing data
- ... should be available in the context of the NGLS too.

# Situation in Germany

- The German library networks have been founded since the 70ies and 80ies as service providers for academic libraries of one or more federal states → **in the responsibility of the German states (not of the federal government)**
- The networks are organizational and technical nodes of the regional cooperation: network database for shared cataloging, interlibrary loan, catalogue enrichment, metadata management etc.
- There are six library consortia in Germany: BVB, BSZ, HEBIS, HBZ, GBV, KOBV.
- They differ in: size/ staff member, number of libraries, software for the regional database (Ex Libris, OCLC/PICA) and different local library management systems – the service portfolios are pretty similar.

# Evaluation of the Networks

- In 2011 the six German library networks have been evaluated by the German Research Council and the National Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) with the following results:
  - The regionally aligned structures of the library networks in Germany demonstrate serious weaknesses, in particular in the development and offer of innovative services for an efficient information infrastructure.
  - The potentials (available in the network as a whole) are not sufficiently exploited from a national perspective.
  - The networks should initiate and develop a primarily functional and bindingly coordinated distribution of tasks.
  - The aim of the integration of catalogues and services that have so far been regionally organized on a national and international level is to avoid redundancies and a complexity of indexing structures that is no longer required today → **one national metadata hub (and not six regional hubs)**

# Library networks databases

- The NGLS have the potential of terminating the – e. g. the six German - library networks databases. Why NGLS like ALMA and WMS don't use library networks any longer?
  - WMS uses World-Cat for cataloguing and copy-cataloging.
  - ALMA offers as a solution a 'Community Zone' which currently includes international master and authority data, in addition to the already mentioned knowledge-base for electronic resources. Furthermore, ALMA offers an 'ALMA Network Zone' which provides a co-operative cataloguing platform, which is quite similar to the continental European practice of library networks.
- ➔ Then we have two different “library worlds” in Germany – this was the reason for the ...**

# CIB Project and its “German data space”

- The “German data space” of the DFG project ‘Cloudbasierte Infrastruktur für Bibliotheksdaten’ (CIB) should be formed virtually through regular synchronisation of metadata of German libraries in World-Cat and the German Network Zone (GNZ) of Alma.
- Thus synchronisation should give ALMA and WMS users the opportunity to access each other’s data in the respective metadata environment. The synchronisation should be open and available to further providers of library systems, too.
- The CIB Project offered in effect well-developed, partly already precisely specified concepts for the GND, for future cataloging of journals and serials, for the very complex topic of synchronisation, and there is a data model which is available to the library community  World-Cat.
- But in the end of the day: All the synchronisation procedures, which have been considered, failed or are too sophisticated. The project recommended cataloging in the World Cat, what includes a number of conditions and prerequisites like interfaces, data formats, working procedures etc.



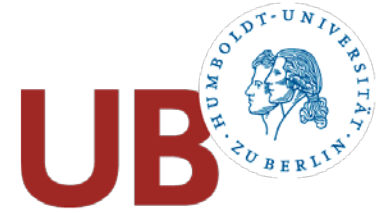
# Metadata Management (1)

- The question is whether the current co-operative practice of shared cataloguing in Germany should be continued, and if yes, how can we join the both “library worlds”?
- For WMS users World-Cat is the basis for shared cataloguing. ALMA users can use World-Cat, but not as a shared cataloguing basis; but can ‘only’ use World-Cat data via copy cataloguing. If ALMA users want to benefit from shared cataloguing, they need to do this in an ALMA Network Zone which offers this option → network zone of CBDZ (= merger of BSZ, GBV and HBZ) provided by the BSZ network
- How far the databases of the existing German ‘Verbünde’ will be integrated into the ALMA Network Zone and what exactly this co-operation will look like, is a separate project. Not least, because the ALMA Network Zone is more than just co-operative cataloguing.

# Metadata management (2)

- Approach of more efficiency → Metadata management in just one or two really big library networks is enabling a much more efficient data sharing (= shared cataloging) → economy of scale
- This is concerning the back office procedures. But what about innovative effectivity, which is improving the information retrieval capabilities?
- Big data technologies (= cloud technology) are able to aggregate, to enrich, to link and to operate any kinds of metadata data automatically for enhanced user searches.
- Innovative tasks of the front office (discovery systems) – target groups are the users → More data hubs or data services for enhancements or enrichments of data → better access to content.

# Questions



- What are the opportunities and risks of a stronger standardization?
- What are the perspectives of future metadata management – more efficiency of the back task office or of the user interface?
- What is the impact of the new systems on the European level?

**Thank you very much for your attention!**

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