

# „With a Little Help From My Friends“

*Friends of Libraries Groups as Effective Supporters –  
A Fruitful Joint Venture  
Between the German Library Association  
and the Institute of Library and Information Science,  
Berlin, Germany*

By Petra Hauke & Christin Mollenhauer

World Library and Information Congress  
72<sup>nd</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council

# Libraries Need Friends

- Library associations
  - advocating for libraries
  - agencies in helping libraries to survive
  - counteract negative public opinion

# Libraries need

- public advocacy
- Ambassadors
- public recognition
  
- the support of Friends of Libraries Groups

# Friends of Libraries Groups

- Are extremely valuable in promoting
  - public libraries
  - special libraries
  - large scientific libraries
- are effective supporters in helping to influence decision makers

# DBV: Supporting Friends

- Voluntary work - an essential factor
- Growing number of Friends of Libraries Groups: 45 in 1975 >> 300 in 2005
- Example: FOLUSA
- DBV: Survey in 2001
- Increasing number of published articles

# Issues of concern to Friends of Libraries Groups

- Organizing and assistance with public events
- Fundraising
- Promotion and advancement of the libraries' image
- Needed:
  - A forum for the exchange of ideas
  - Umbrella organization to promote their ideals

# A Road Map for Friends of Libraries Groups

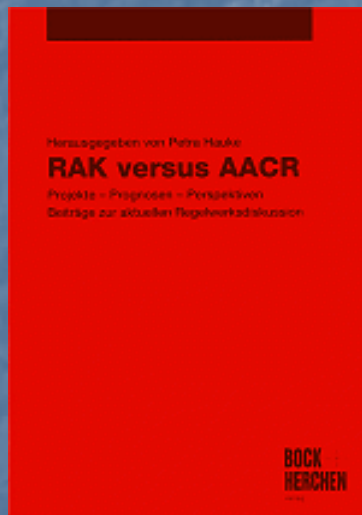
- Database of Friends of Libraries Groups
- Umbrella: “Standing Conference”
- Nationwide networking and exchange of experiences
- Friends’ own website
- Participation in the work of regional German Library Associations

# A Wonderful Coincidence

- German Library Association's decision
  - to promote Friends of Libraries Groups
- Humboldt University Berlin LIS Class' decision
  - to publish a handbook on "Friends of Libraries Groups"
  - to organize a nationwide conference



# Looking Back: “Turning an Idea into a Book”



[www.ib.hu-berlin.de/buchidee/index.html](http://www.ib.hu-berlin.de/buchidee/index.html)

# “Clubs of Notabilities?”

- What do Friends of Libraries really do?
- What can they really do?
- Examples of “Best Practice”?
- Legal problems?
- Strategies, possibilities and platforms required?
- Support for library’s marketing strategies?
- Promoting the idea of “Friends of Libraries”?
- Conference / publication?

# First: The Conference

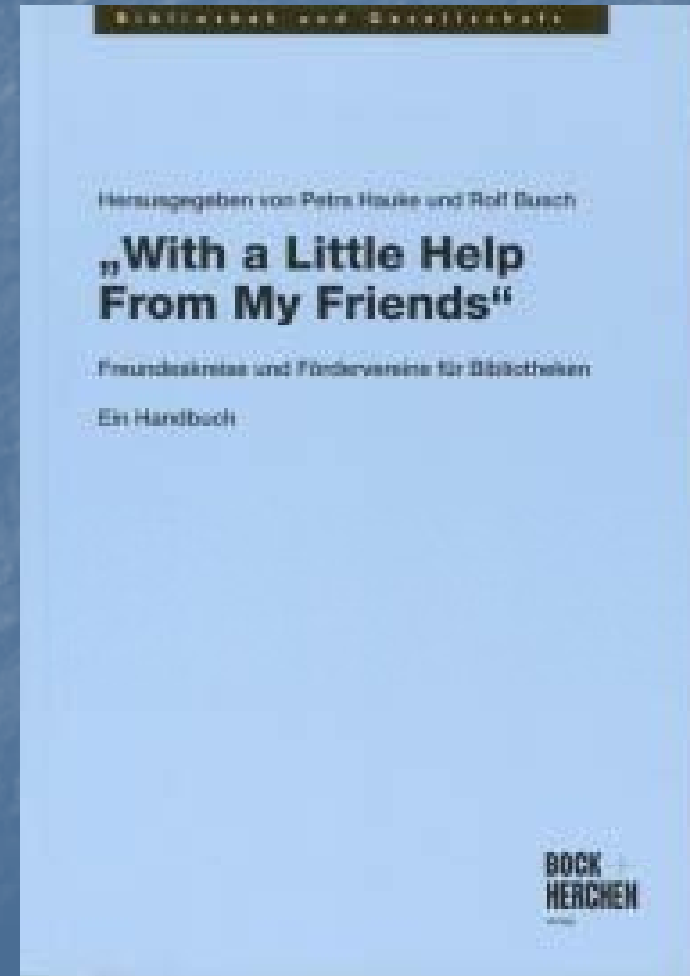
- May 2005
- Joint venture with Free University Berlin
- Speakers from
  - all over Germany
  - UK (Library Campaign)
  - USA (Folusa)
  - Austria (Nat. Libr. Vienna)

# Themes of the conference

- Any books left over?
- Offering wisdom – searching friends
- Opening hours on Sunday
- Adopt a book!
- “Cut libraries – see wot hapens”.
- Modern fundraising strategies
- Legal and tax matters of Friends of Libraries groups

# Looking Inside ...

- “With a Little Help From My Friends” – A Handbook.
- Bad Honnef, 2005



# A Fruitful Joint Venture

Humboldt Universität Berlin

The German Library Association

2500 copies for free

For their members

For Friends of Libraries Groups

# IFLA:

**“It is time for libraries to work together with library scholars and professionals in order to fulfill the role and functions of 21st century information centres to meet the challenges of this fast moving world.”**

# Open Access

- <http://www.ib.hu-berlin.de/buchidee/buch4/index.html>
- <http://www.bibliotheksverband.de/konferenz/handbuch.html>



# Many thanks!

- For further information please visit the book project's website: <http://www.ib.huberlin.de/buchidee>.

Petra Hauke M.A. & Christin Mollenhauer  
*Institute of Library and Information Science,*  
*Berlin, Germany*