Designing the GREEN Library

Environmental Sustainability in Library Spaces, Library Management, and Library Service

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Background

- Book project
- Seminar „Turning an idea into a book“
- Articles written by experts
- Foster LIS-students’ publishing skills
  - Inviting articles
  - Reviewing, editing, formatting
  - Figures: quality, rights
- Financing
- How to publish: Print / Digital / Open Access
- Promoting the idea of the „Green Library“
The **GREEN** Library - Why?

- Libraries ARE already environmentally friendly
  - Lending of collections
  - Information retrieval
  - Provision of an open, common space
  - ...

- Library buildings are energy saving:
  - Rectangel cubus: minimum of outside walls
  - Atrium: maximum of natural light
  - Re-use of old buildings for library purpose
  - Green roofs
Can / Should we do MORE?
Going **GREEN** - Imagine ...  
As new library director I could ...  

- Reduce new book acquisitions – let’s leave the trees in the forests!
- Minimize the heating
- Switch off the lights
- Take away the computers
- Reduce the opening hours
- Close the library
- ...
Reducing the Ecological Footprint

- Environmentally friendly / recycled materials
- Virtual user services
- Energy-saving copy service
- Waste separation
- Elimination of plastic-bags
- No more paper cups but recycled china
- Fair-trade coffee
- Suppliers with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 (or working to get one of those)
- 'Green' events ...
The Bangkok Eco-Library - an example of a Green Library

- Part of Kasetsart Universities project „Kasetsart loves environment“
- First ideas in 2010
- Library opens 2012
- Involved departments
  - University library
  - Architect faculties „Scrap Lab“

Bookshelf, ground floor, and lamps made of offcuts.
What's a 'Scrap-Lab'?

• The Idea: new from old!
• Rebuild and invent new items by using scrap, waste and trash
• Partners: factories & sponsors of offcuts and reusable materials
• It's more than functional – it's aesthetic as well
The nearly 100 % sustainable library

• Saving energy by use of
  - Recycled materials for reducing the consumption of raw-materials
  - Build 'new' furnitures from offcut
  - Natural light and energy-saving light-bulbs and technics

• Books on ecology and environment as main part of the inventory
Eco-library - open library

- Part of the books can be borrowed without a membership-card or a deposit
- 20,000 users per month
- Home-like-feeling
- Children and young readers are welcome!
- Open to everyone
- Free of charge
How about activities?

- D.I.Y.-craft-activities
- Eco-essay competition
- Book discussions
The aim

- Support a life-long reading behaviour
- Read and learn without discrimination
- Think green!
- Improve and strengthen the environmental consciousness
- As a role-model, encourage other institutions
- Last but not least: Save money
Libraries take a stand ...

• Democracy!
• Multicultural Services!
• Open Access!
• No discrimination!
• Social responsibility!
• Why not: Environmental responsibility?!
• „As gateways for knowledge, libraries are particularly well-suited as demonstration vehicles.” (Boyden & Weiner 2000)
Environmental policy

Introduction

Background
Why not?

„The visit in the library reduces your carbon footprint!“

Vallila Public Library,
Helsinki, Finland
http://www.broward.org/LIBRARY/MYLIBRARYONLINE/Pages/MyLibraryOnline.aspx

My Library Online

Make a Difference Today!
Reduce your ecological footprint with Broward County Library. Learn how you can reduce the impact that you leave on the Earth through using your local library. Check out being green and start changing the world.

CHECK OUT BEING GREEN
Broward County Library
VISIT US @ WWW.BROWARD.ORG/LIBRARY
Libraries going **GREEN**: Shout it out loud!

- Libraries play an important role in the society, and therefore also in the environmental world
  - take a clear stand
  - create a visible green image for the library
- New ideas and ideals cannot be spread if one remains silent
- Silence does not promote the status and survival of libraries in a quickly changing world
- Libraries should pay attention to their image
- Going Green: Aspect of image / of marketing
- Everyone should realize that, in libraries, we work for a better future.
References

To follow the project please visit http://www.ib.hu-berlin.de/buchidee

Many thanks for your attention.

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