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"The German Language and Literature Special Collections at the University Library of Frankfurt am Main and the work of the Subject Specialist "

**Paper delivered in Göttingen 4. 9. 2007
at the Annual Conference of the German Studies Library Group (GSLG)**

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Dear Colleagues

I am very grateful to the "German Studies Library Group" and the University Library of Göttingen for inviting me to speak to you. My purpose is to introduce you – and especially our British guests – to the Sondersammelgebiet Germanistik at the University Library in Frankfurt, which it is my responsibility to look after.

As a Frankfurt librarian I am particularly pleased to be the guest of the University Library of Göttingen, the library which currently occupies 'pole position' in **BIX**, the Deutscher Bibliotheksindex, among academic libraries of the traditional kind, i.e. those comprising a central library and a number of associated specialist libraries – though this year for the first

time Göttingen is closely followed by Frankfurt University Library in second place! In 2004 we were only fifth, then third, and now we are "runners-up" – I wonder what the future will bring? Watch out, Göttingen! Of course, one can only welcome such competition, which is for the benefit of our users.

A glance at the BIX Table (see below) of fifteen German and three Austrian libraries shows how close Göttingen und Frankfurt now are in the rankings for content, use, efficiency and development. As regards efficiency, i.e. efficient use of financial resources, there is no doubt room for improvement in both libraries.

GK	Overall ranking	RA	Content ranking					
NU	Use ranking	EF	Efficiency ranking					
EL	Development ranking	SD	Number of students					
	Library	State	SD	GK	RA	NU	EF	EL
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aachen	NRW	30.180	17	5	18	12	13
<input type="checkbox"/>	Darmstadt	HES	15.161	13	4	12	15	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Frankfurt am Main</u>	HES	34.912	2	3	2	16	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Freiburg	BAW	20.840	4	12	1	4	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Göttingen</u>	NIE	24.012	1	2	6	17	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graz	Ö	19.636	11	7	3	14	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hamburg	HAM	39.063	12	16	10	11	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hannover	NIE	20.841	18	6	14	13	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heidelberg	BAW	26.758	5	9	8	3	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karlsruhe	BAW	16.734	3	1	15	2	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Köln	NRW	44.642	10	18	17	1	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leoben	Ö	2.216	7	10	5	9	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Münster	NRW	40.306	14	15	16	6	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saarbrücken	SAA	14.705	16	11	9	18	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stuttgart	BAW	19.203	9	14	13	8	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tübingen	BAW	23.322	8	13	7	5	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wien	Ö	19.255	15	17	11	10	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Würzburg	BAY	20.336	6	8	4	7	9

If you look at the URL <http://www.bix-bibliotheksindex.de/> you will find the actual performance figures on which these rankings are based.

Let us now look briefly at the Frankfurt University Library System, which incorporates not only the central University Library but also a number of special libraries such as the Central Medical Library, the Niederursel Library Centre (devoted to natural sciences), and the Humanities Library Centre, as well as a number of other large specialist libraries.

Besides these, the system includes numerous smaller subject libraries, offering a typical example of a 'multi-level' German university library system which has grown up over time and is also geographically dispersed.

Since 2005 the central library of Frankfurt University has been officially known as the

"Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg" (web address:

www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de). It combines the functions of

- a university library, with numerous obligations imposed on it by the federal state (Hesse) to which it belongs (compiling a regional bibliography, assuming the right of legal deposit for the region, acting as the centre for a regional network, professional development)
- an academic library for the city of Frankfurt am Main and the Rhine-Main conurbation
- a specialist library operating within the federal German programme of supra-regional collection development.

Here are a few statistics about our university library system:

- Number of items acquired annually: 120,000 (including 70,000 acquired by the main University Library)
- Acquisitions budget: almost 6 million euros
- Number of items borrowed annually: over 1 million
- Number of active borrowers: 43,000 (including 12,000 who are not attached to the university)
- Staff: 301 (of whom 260 are in the main University Library)
- User places: 3,100
- Computer workstations: 326
- Weekly opening hours: 83 (increased to 90.5 during the winter semester) N.B. For this we get extra BIX points!

As an academic library with predecessors going back more than 500 years, the university library houses important historic collections, including manuscripts, incunabula, and numerous archives and collections of private papers, for example the Schopenhauer Archive,

the Herbert Marcuse Archive, and the manuscripts of musical composers. It also has the special Frankfurt Collection. <http://www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/bestand.html>

The library also compiles various databases, including:

- the *Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft* (BDSL)
www.bdsl-online.de (more on this later)
 - the *Bibliographie Linguistischer Literatur Datenbank* (BLLDB)
www.blldb-online.de
 - *Compact Memory: Internetarchiv jüdischer Periodica*
www.compactmemory.de
 - *Flugschriften von 1848* [1848 Revolutionary pamphlets]
<http://1848.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/cgi-bin/uebersicht.rb>
 - *Koloniales Bildarchiv* [Archive of Colonial Images]
www.ub.bildarchiv-dkg.uni-frankfurt.de/
-

Furthermore, Frankfurt University Library maintains and develops a number of Special Subject Collections (**Sondersammelgebiete**) as part of the system of „supra-regional“ collecting funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, or German Research Foundation). Let me remind you briefly of what this system entails. It is a well-known fact that no library in Germany is able to collect every new publication from home and abroad. Furthermore, Germany has never possessed any single institution capable of fulfilling every function of a national library. However, to ensure that nowadays at least one copy of every publication that can make a contribution to research is available somewhere in Germany, the DFG has been sponsoring this unique system of ‘Sondersammelgebiet’ libraries ever since 1950. Every field of knowledge has been allocated to a specific library, which collects in as much depth and breadth as possible the literature which appears in its own appointed field, regardless of where in the world it is published. Libraries receive central funding for this purpose.

Frankfurt University Library receives funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for the following Sondersammelgebiete or SSGs:

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Oceania
- General and Comparative Linguistics
- General and Comparative Literature
- **Germanic Studies, German Language and Literature**
- Israel

- Jewish Studies
- Theatre and Film Studies
- Biology
- Botany
- Zoology

For more information, see: www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/ssg.html

Frankfurt was given responsibility for the **Germanic Studies, German Language and Literature** SSG in 1950, because it already had strong collections in this area.

The term „Germanic Studies“ is not confined to German language and literature, but also embraces Germanic Studies in a wider sense, i.e. general works on Germanic languages and literatures as a whole and on European ethnology, including fields such as folklore, fairy tales, mythology, cultural concepts, etc.

And by the way: as it happens, I am also responsible for Dutch Literature (and indeed for English Language and Literature), but Scandinavian Studies is dealt with as a separate subject by another colleague.

Our collections in the field of Germanic Studies grow by roughly 4500 titles a year, on top of which we acquire around 1000 titles in the field of General and Comparative Literature, which often include discussion of Germanic topics.

We currently subscribe to around 400 specialist periodicals, of which 140 are published abroad.

Because Frankfurt is responsible for the period 1801-1870 in the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sammlung Deutscher Drucke (of which I shall have more to say later), it follows that our collections already offer an extraordinarily broad coverage of 19th-century works in the field of German Language and Literature.

Other strengths of our collections include Expressionism, the literature of the Weimar Republic (1919-1933), exile literature, works for children and young people, authors' manuscripts, authors' private papers (e.g. Karoline von Günderode, Ludwig Börne) and the Franz Lennartz Literary Archive containing newspaper cuttings of recent decades that serve as source material for the study of literature, writers and literary life. The web address for the “Germanic Studies” SSG is:

Perhaps I could modestly add that following 23 years as a lecturer at the Frankfurt Library School I became the Germanic Studies specialist at the university library in the summer of 2003 – at last!

Since then, as far as the budget allowed – and of course it is always too small – I have tried especially hard to select material that specifically reflects the most recent trends in German literature, by which I mean such important and serious areas as:

- Immigrant authors or ‘intercultural literature’
e.g. *Feridun Zaimoglu, Emine Sevgi Özdamar, Wladimir Kaminer, Rafik Schami, Terézia Mora*
A useful tip: see the Sonderband of the periodical "Text + Kritik" entitled "Literatur und Migration", hrsg. von Heinz Ludwig Arnold. München 2006, 285p. Includes select bibliography.
- Post-Wende literature
e.g. *Ingo Schulze, Reinhard Jirgl, Christoph Hein, Durs Grünbein, Thomas Brussig*
- so-called Pop literature
e.g. *Benjamin von Stuckrad-Barre, Christian Kracht, Thomas Meinecke*
See: Hoffmann, Dieter: Arbeitsbuch deutschsprachige Prosa seit 1945. Tübingen [u.a.]: Francke. (UTB; 2371: Literaturwissenschaft) Bd. 2: Von der neuen Subjektivität zur Pop-Literatur. 2006. Includes a 30-page bibliography
- Women’s literature
e.g. *Yoko Tawada, Ulrike Draesner, Katharina Hacker, Juli Zeh, Zoë Jenny*
- Post-war literature of recollection
e.g. *Uwe Timm, Thomas Lehr, Martin Mosebach, Arnold Stadler*

and besides that everything on Günter Grass, Martin Walser (you know what I mean ...) and, in the area of German language, topics such as the language of young people, dialects and a lot on contrastive linguistics.

For some years, there has also been a conspicuous increase in the number of ‘Germanistic’ studies emanating from the countries of Eastern Europe, involving the growth of new topics that stimulate and enrich the subject. Some of these topics could not be studied there under Communism (in the Baltic States, for example). These same topics are now reaching the West via conference proceedings and collections of essays, with the result that the whole basis of German Studies is being broadened and the publishers involved are producing a greater quantity of relevant material (i.e. material worth acquiring) than before.

Perhaps, my dear colleagues, you can confirm this from your own island perspective!

If I were to acquire all the interesting and useful books – both primary texts and secondary literature – that are listed every week in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie, I would need a considerable increase in my acquisitions budget! As in previous years, I am hoping it will be topped up in the autumn so that I can buy for our users the new publications which appear at the Book Fair and for the Christmas market.

My explanations have already gone some way towards outlining this particular 'Sondersammelgebiet'. I should also like to mention some of the Collection Development Guidelines laid down by the DFG which I am obliged to follow.

Both in the field of German Language and in the field of German Literature I concentrate on the following:

Source material; primary texts (i.e. German authors of every genre, tendency, style and period; children's literature, and literature for young people; talking books and CD-ROMs; periodicals); research literature of all kinds. Also: comparative studies relevant to German language and literature; interdisciplinary works; publications on the teaching of literature, rhetoric, stylistic research, literary semiotics, literary criticism, the profession of literature, and German literature in other countries; and, last but not least, studies on the history of "Germanistik" as a discipline.

We also offer the academic user 45 databases relevant to German Studies, some of which – thanks to the DFG's financial support – are made available throughout Germany.

http://info.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/fach_liste.html?fach=germ

I have already mentioned the "**Sammlung Deutscher Drucke**" (SDD) in connection with our rich 19th-century holdings. You are probably aware that in 1989 six libraries formed a consortium (the Arbeitsgemeinschaft SDD) with the aim of building up as comprehensive a collection as possible of works printed in those countries and regions where German was spoken or German culture flourished, from the invention of printing to the present day. Their task is not only to collect the material but to catalogue it, make it available for public use and conserve it for future generations (www.ag-sdd.de).

Each of the six libraries is responsible for a specific chronological segment:

1450-1600 Bavarian State Library, Munich

1601-1700	Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel
1701-1800	Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
<u>1801-1870</u>	<u>Universitätsbibliothek Joh. Chr. Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main</u>
1871-1912	Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz
from 1913 onwards	Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (Leipzig, Frankfurt a. M., Berlin)

Today the consortium is financed by the funding bodies of the individual participating libraries. As I mentioned earlier, Germany has never had a national library with 'universal' functions like the British Library or the Bibliothèque nationale de France; so today we talk of a "distributed national library", which is formed in effect of the present "Deutsche Nationalbibliothek" in its three locations, plus the other five members of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sammlung Deutscher Drucke and the numerous Sondersammelgebiete.

In other words: the normal functions of a national library with regard to foreign publications are carried out by the largest libraries (Munich, Berlin, Göttingen, etc.), as well as by numerous others thanks to their SSGs, whereas the publications of the German-speaking area are being collected as fully as possible by the six SDD libraries and may be consulted there.

My dear British guests, even for us Germans it really is as complicated as it sounds! I have tried for many years to explain to young librarians the vagaries of German history and of the German library landscape.

Regarding the cataloguing of the "deutsche Drucke": you have no doubt heard of "VD 16" and "VD 17", which are the retrospective national bibliographies of the printed books of the 16th and 17th centuries.

www.vd16.de , www.vd17.de

Similar projects are being planned for the 18th and 19th centuries. And the publications from 1913 onwards are all listed in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie.

Since the printed cultural heritage of the German-speaking lands is also being digitised - or is expected to be digitised in the future - for the benefit of the research community, we also use the term "virtual national library".

The latest annual report of the SDD consortium (2005) has been reprinted in: Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie, 2007, Heft 2, p. 67-73. Available online under: <http://zfbib.thulb.uni-jena.de/>

Frankfurt's own contributions to the work of the SDD are explained at

<http://www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/wertvoll/sdd.html>

But to return to the theme of German Studies: in 2006 Frankfurt acquired 528 items as part of the SDD programme, of which 72 (or 14%) were in the area of German Philology, predominantly popular literature and folk poetry. In Frankfurt, the average price of works purchased under the SDD programme was 136 euros. (This compares with an average price in Göttingen in 2005 of 347 Euros!) However, antiquarian acquisitions for the purpose of SDD are not part of my responsibilities, we have other specialists for that.

One of the consequences of the development of the Sondersammelgebiet for "German Language and Literature" in Frankfurt is the production of the the "**Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft**" (BDSL):

www.bdsl-online.de

The latter is the most important source of bibliographic information in the field of Germanic Studies. It began life in the early 50s as a special bibliography of Frankfurt University Library, but in 1957 it was taken over by the Frankfurt publishing house of Vittorio Klostermann, and since 2004 an online version has been available on the Internet, in parallel with the printed edition which continues to be published.

The project was the initiative of Hanns W. Eppelsheimer who had formerly been Director of the University Library, and was continued by his successor Clemens Köttelwesch. This explains why the bibliography is known in professional circles by the unofficial title of "Eppelsheimer-Köttelwesch". Under its present editor, Wilhelm R. Schmidt, it has been compiled electronically since 1990. Meanwhile, the data for 1985-1989 has been digitised retrospectively, thanks in part to the financial support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and there are plans to retroconvert further volumes.

Subscribers to the online edition, of whom there are currently 160, including 30 in the USA and five in the British Isles (namely the British Library, the Bodleian Library, Birmingham, Bristol and Trinity College Dublin) can access the complete database from 1985 onwards. The contents of the volumes from 1985 to 1995 can be searched for free. On average, the database grows by around 15,000 entries a year representing monographs, collections of papers (conference proceedings, Festschriften, etc.) and newspaper and periodical articles. The file is updated every two months.

As a result, the BDSL contains approximately 330,000 entries for the period 1985-2006.

In compiling BDSL, the editors Doris Marek and Susanne Pröger personally examine items from the university library's collections. Thus the bibliography is not merely a list of titles, but also a list of the library's holdings, in other words a catalogue.

BDSL lists publications appearing throughout the world on the subject of German language and literature and on Germanic studies as a whole. It includes not only the usual forms of publication, such as monographs, collections of papers, and periodical articles, but also grey literature (for example the products of private presses; reports; literary association yearbooks) and reviews of the primary literature.

One very useful feature that has recently been added is full-text access to documents that are intrinsically available free of charge or for which licences have been obtained. The fact that one may also browse the file using the BDSL classification, which is familiar to users of the printed edition, is an added bonus. (See Appendix 1)

Personal names, titles and subject headings are linked to the corresponding entries in the online encyclopaedia *Wikipedia*. In addition, subject headings (and names of authors) are linked to GiNFix, the list of Internet sources which Dr. Michel has already described in his paper earlier this morning.

BDSL is of course a well-established institution, but, as a computerised bibliography structured according to the principles of German studies, it logically belongs nowadays in the context of the Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Germanistik, where it can be made available to Germanists the world over. This is surely where its future lies.

I should also like to draw your attention to the beautifully designed 'flyer' that was distributed in electronic form all over the world in order to advertise BDSL, and which met with a very positive response.

The University Library in Frankfurt also gives access via its home page to the "**Neuerwerbungsliste Germanistik**", updated monthly, which Dr. Michel has already mentioned. In this list of new accessions, each item is accompanied by its press-mark which is directly linked to the library's online catalogue.

www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/ne/fachlist.html

The library's new accessions in the field of German studies have also given rise to another publication, but unfortunately one that is less well known to librarians. For decades, the subject specialist in Frankfurt has been compiling, on a regular basis, a bibliographical current awareness tool entitled "**Bibliographie germanistischer Bibliographien**". For this purpose, all relevant new academic publications are examined in the search for bibliographies – whether these be independent bibliographies in their own right or 'concealed' bibliographies within larger publications – and also lists of bibliographical references if they are significant. These information sources, which are of particular value to Germanists, are listed by subject in the BgB and some of the entries are annotated. Coverage extends to comparative studies, exile literature, writings for children and young people and also reference works. (The subject arrangement is explained in the appendix to this paper.)

Up to now the "Bibliographie germanistischer Bibliographien" has been published once a year in the "Jahrbuch für Internationale Germanistik" by Peter Lang in Berne (though the "Jahrbuch" actually appears twice a year!). The most recent edition consists of 80 pages and contains 1352 entries.

In the appendix to this paper you will find two specimen pages of BgB, and I have also brought you a few offprints.

There are two reasons why the BgB is not so well known as it should be: firstly it is itself a 'concealed bibliography', and secondly is not readily available electronically. For although the journal is included in the publisher's online pages, the contents are not accessible free of charge; also the latest volume has not been mounted.

<http://peterlang.metapress.com>

Would it not be a good idea for the future if this bibliography, which must surely encourage the borrowing of books in libraries, could be made available on line and thus in a more up-to-date form? Should it not also be accessible via "Germanistik im Netz"?

I should also like to tell you about an important initiative in the field of periodicals in which Frankfurt University Library participates. I am referring to "**DigiZeitschriften**" – the digital archive of German periodicals. Since 1999, both students and academics have been able to access the digitised texts of certain key German research journals through libraries and academic institutions that subscribe to the service. The titles have been selected not only on the grounds of their importance, but also because they have been published over a long

number of years. An example from the field of German studies is the "Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum und deutsche Literatur", of which the volumes from 1876 to 2000 can be found on line. In accordance with the "moving wall principle", periodicals are digitised up to five years in each case before the latest volume (in the case of titles that are still current).

At present, "DigiZeitschriften" contains more than 110 titles from sixteen subject areas, ranging from philology through history, art, music, law and economics to mathematics and natural sciences.

You can also find details of newly added titles at the following address:

www.digizeitschriften.de

Since the DigiZeitschriften initiative was started by nine libraries responsible for various Sondersammelgebiete, it will not surprise you to learn that it is supported financially by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The secretariat is based at the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen. (You again!)

Meanwhile, work is under way to integrate those DigiZeitschriften titles which are relevant to German Studies into the Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Germanistik.

What else does my work as German Studies specialist entail?

Besides the never ending task of subject-indexing new accessions, there is another important task requiring a lot of time and effort, and that is the annual **literary exhibition** associated with the university's visiting lectureship in literary creativity (sponsored by Suhrkamp Verlag and others). Ever since 1959, when Ingeborg Bachmann gave the first series of lectures, it has been the rôle of the university library to illustrate the life and work of the current visiting lecturer by mounting an exhibition.

A page on the university's website gives the long list of previous authors:

www.uni-frankfurt.de/forschung/profil/stiftgast/poetik/index.html

Naturally, the exhibitions draw mainly on the collections of the "Sondersammelgebiet Germanistik". My predecessors, especially Carl Paschek, created exhibitions on Uwe Johnson, Martin Walser, Ernst Jandl, Günter Grass, Walter Jens and Robert Gernhardt – among others.

In the 1980s, I too was fortunate to be responsible for exhibitions on two authors, namely Christa Wolf (1982) and Hilde Domin (1988), and since I was appointed subject specialist there have been exhibitions devoted to Angela Krauß, Monika Maron, Wilhelm Genazino and Urs Widmer. (The announcement of the Widmer exhibition may be found under:

www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/publikationen/widmer.html)

As well as selecting and ensuring the delivery of approximately 400 exhibits (including books, reviews, photographs, letters and other documents), there is the closely associated but very time-consuming task of compiling the **exhibition booklet**. These paperback publications of around 80 pages form an introduction to the exhibition and include texts by the author concerned, interviews, articles written by specialists, photographs, bibliographies, etc. From 2006 onwards they have been published as a separate series by Sutton-Verlag in Erfurt (www.suttonverlag.de)

On the following page of our website:

www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/publikationen/buecherstub.html#buecher

you can find a list of the issues that are still in print. If you are interested in either the Genazino number or the one on Widmer, "please see me afterwards", because I have brought a few copies for sale! You will find a few pages from both in the appendix to this paper.

And last but not least, I have put out some of the **publicity leaflets** on the BDSL and the Sondersammelgebiet Germanistik, which you are welcome to take away.

And so I come to the end of my paper on the Sondersammelgebiet Germanistik and the work of the German Language and Literature subject specialist in Frankfurt University Library. I regret that time did not allow me to do more than sketch out the subject and highlight the essentials. Yet I sincerely hope I've at least been able to give you an insight into part of my daily work.

And perhaps I will have inspired you to hold your "annual conference" one year in Frankfurt – in the city of Goethe's birth!

I would be very happy to answer questions.

Thank you for being such attentive listeners!

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