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Summaries

Dear Reader,

This year, Central European University (CEU) is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which is a remarkable landmark in the history of the institution. Committed to democracy and civil liberties, the university has become a unique center of excellence that has fostered the transition from dictatorship to democracy in the region and beyond. By now CEU's deep regional roots have grown into an increasingly global perspective as the university brings together students from more than 100 and professors from more than 40 countries. The highly multinational environment nurtures respect for diverse cultures and opinions and ensures the development of a dynamic, progressive and innovative academic community that also closely engages with contemporary challenges of public policy in order to support better governance throughout the world. The commitment to academic excellence in teaching and research reinforces the social dimension of the university's mission: being a regional thought-leader enables CEU to inform policy initiatives for social and economic reform.

Closely supporting the mission of CEU, the Library is an indispensable part of the university's life. On the one hand its extensive collection in the field of social sciences and the humanities serves the needs of our students and professors, on the other hand it has become a leading information and research center in the region and beyond. Currently, the Library holds more than 275 thousand volumes, which makes it the largest English-language university library in Central and Eastern Europe. The unique collections, the great number of the electronic databases, the availability of the latest data-retrieval technologies, the state-of-the-art electronic equipment and the high quality of service brings an ever-growing number of researchers and visiting patrons to the Library from all over the world.

It is therefore my great pleasure to have been asked to introduce the CEU Library in this special issue of the journal. I hope that many of the readers will be inspired to visit us and try the facilities of our Library. At CEU we do not only teach but also practice openness: visitors are more than welcome!

John Shattuck
President and Rector
Central European University

SZLATKY, M.: The Central European University Library 464

The CEU Library (Budapest, Hungary) established in 1992 by György Soros, is a modern, well equipped, medium-size English-language university library with an international clientele. The Library's main responsibility is to serve the CEU community, to support the educational programmes of the CEU, and to facilitate teaching, learning and research processes and activities among CEU students, faculty, researchers and staff. The CEU Library also provides services to the external academic public. The Library is a so-called hybrid library contains the largest English-language holdings in the field of social sciences and humanities in Central and Eastern Europe. It currently holds over 270,000 documents in various formats. Its electronic resources, databases, e-journals and e-book collections are exceptionally rich. The traditional documents are arranged in an open-access system in the reading rooms that makes possible free browsing for users, while electronic resources are accessible campus-wide. The CEU Library aims to become a leading research and information centre in the Central and Eastern European Region, expanding its role as a flagship of modern information technology in the field of the humanities and social sciences. The article tells the history of the CEU Library which is going to celebrate its 20th anniversary next year.

KÖRÖSI, K.: The CEU Library's Periodical Collection 497

The CEU Library's periodical collection has been growing enormously between 1993 and 2000. After a review at the beginning of this decade, the number of subscribed periodicals was decreased. Some subscriptions were cancelled, others were replaced with databases. In the last five years the number of currently subscribed journals was moving between 900 and 1000. In the reading rooms the periodical collection is divided into three collections: a general collection, plus two special ones, on law and protection of the environment. There is a close co-operation between the 16 university departments and the library's serial department. The university departments determine the titles to be subscribed or cancelled; and they decide about the acquisition of retrospective issues. The library helps the departments' activity with renewal lists in an improved format. For more than ten years the main periodical supplier has been EBSCO. The library acquires magazines and

newspapers from the four well-known Hungarian periodical suppliers. All periodical titles (individually subscribed or from databases) are searchable through the OPAC, with the technical support provided by TDNet Electronic Journal Management Service.

MOLNÁR, I.: Electronic databases at the CEU Library 503

The article introduces the electronic database collection of the CEU Library. Further, it analyses and evaluates these databases based on their usage statistics. Using the context of a literature review it emphasises the importance and usefulness of this method, though pointing out its limitations and problematic nature. It presents how the method is applied in the CEU Library, what data are received and how these data are used to inform collection building decisions, also mentioning the limita

CSANKOVSZKI, K.: Interlibrary loan service at the CEU Library 511

The purpose of this article is to describe the interlibrary loan services of the CEU Library based on statistical data of the academic years 2006/2007 to 2010/2011. It summarises the possibilities provided by the Millennium integrated library system for the annual/monthly ILL statistics. It also describes the role of the CEU Library in Hungarian and international document delivery systems.

LUKÁŠ, V.: The CEU Library's Web presence 516

Preconditioned and primed by both by friendly bickering and palavers with the IT Department, the CEU Library opted very early on for web-based, freeware and cloud-powered solutions. This virtue made out of necessity allowed for the adoption and development of several independent library widgets which have come to define the Library vis-à-vis its patrons worldwide. It is the Library Toolbar platform powered by the Conduit Inc., with its robust search engine, content sharing and Web 2.0 features alongside with the Wibiya toolbar used in the catalogue that constitute the backbone of the library's online existence. Accompanied by a wide array of RSS feeds, communication and feedback/chat tools, subject gates, mobile website, as well as by a Facebook site, the CEU library's presence on the web represents a well-balanced attempt at coming to terms with challenges facing librarians in tackling new technologies and changing patron behavioural patterns.