

The Quest for Documents Catalogs, Inter-Library-Loan and Document Delivery in Austria

Abstract

If you want to work efficiently and economical in research and teaching there is condition precedent: the admission to expert literature. It's not possible for any library to keep the whole literature, which is needed for different sciences, on one single place. To guaranty an appropriate literature, Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery is imperativ.

By Interlibrary Loan different Medias can be ordered at international libraries and will be post by them. The user can search in our online catalog for the book wich he requires and gets information about the literature, place in the library and loan possibilities.

As first library in Austria, the Donau University of Krems, ist using the Librarysoftware Aleph Sharing. Regettably there is no unitised handling for Interlibrary Loan in Austria – every library works for miscellaneous provisions. For Document Delivery we collaborate with the "Document-Delivery-Service" Subito. The user has the opportunity - via Open Access – to search after a special topic or article in our online catalog by the category "Online Resources". If we have a journal under licence, the user is able to get the document directly. For unlicensed literature is an order via Subito necessary. Subito edit the order and send a copy from the requested article to the library from where the user can pick it up.

Students and members of the research staff of the Donau Univeristy or the IMC next door, have the possibility to order their documents by a web form on our Homepage. The huge number of orders shows us, how important, for research and teaching, such an librarian performance is. But there is another side of the coin. As more expert literature is needed as high are the costs for licences, transport and employees. So you can call it into question if Inter Library Loan and Document Delivery is also economically justifiable.