

## Eine Vorstellung des bleibenden kulturellen Erbes der wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken in der modernen Zeit

Presenting the  
Eternal Cultural Values  
of the Scientific and Research Library  
in Modern Times

Представление вечного  
культурного наследия  
научных библиотеках  
в наши дни

Von / by

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### Schlüsselworte

Bulgarien  
Historischer Buchbestand  
Kulturelles Erbe  
Sammlung (Geologie)  
Sammlung (Mineralogie)  
Sammlung (Paläontologie)

### Zusammenfassung

A traditional function of a research library was to accumulate knowledge in the form of print or writing on paper. It aimed to become a repository of records of the world's nature, discoveries, inventions, thought, creative writing, history and human interaction: a resource to which one could turn to find out about the past, both distant and recent.

The future was something the scientific and research library had always to bear in mind; it owed a prime duty to future generations whom it should, serve

at least as well as the present generation. The eternal values of such a library set out to serve were thus cultural, educational and scholarly. A country that did preserve the records of the past, even if it did not willfully destroy them for political reasons, could not pretend to be civilized.

To serve those values the library needs staff who were themselves schools and who moreover have skills in recording and preserving the cultural and scientific heritage.

To be sure, few libraries can approach that ideal at all closely, but not to aim at it is an admission of inferiority. It is the hope of even small university libraries that they might one day grow to be real rich libraries. Their staffing and their structure should reflect that ambition.

The last 10 years rapidly changed the requirements to the scientific libraries. They became greatly dependent on external resources as their „parent“ institutions either showed unwillingness of inability of providing enough financial support to the growing needs. Market economy and market „values“ entered our cultural life. Libraries had to show value for money and measure their performance and the too had to try to find alternative sources of income. They had to begin to think in terms of market and customers rather than of scholarship and users; they had to justify their acquisitions in terms of cost-effectiveness and their service in terms of known and ascertainable demand. The present must be served and their service in terms of known and ascertainable demand. The present must be served at all cost – and that is hard enough, as for the future, there is no time or money to take thought or make provision for the morrow. Staff may become so commercially-minded that they can no longer think in terms of scholarship, enterprise is all. The library is beginning to have to compete with the private information sector and sometimes even with the university's own computer center. The

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traditional heart of the university is in danger of undergoing a bypass operation. We are witnesses of a new generation of managers/librarians with few or no scholarly interests, or even sympathies. Nevertheless, the library not only has no practical alternative to serving the past and the present but also has no social or moral alternative. Eternal cultural values remain valid, they exist independent of the common country climate. In fact some modern projects are in tune with that climate serving the „eternal“ needs. At the same time not all university libraries can or should aim to be „eternal“ libraries. Some universities were deliberately planned to be more „functional“ than others (technical and technological ones). They mainly aim to serve the future research.

The values of libraries cannot be separated from those of society; they not only reflect them but they can also help to influence them more easily to turn back to the eternal values of mankind – its culture and memory. The literature in the field of mining, geology and metallurgy is characterized by comparatively slow „aging“ as to the literature in fields like: chemistry, ecology, electronics, computers etc. Libraries with collections in mining and geology should preserve collections of greater retrospection as research, equipment and technologies do not change rapidly during a long period of time. Geology is one of the most ancient sciences in the world and during a long period of time.

The geological inventions kept valid for thousands of years. The great responsibility of scientific and research libraries is to preserve that wealth of human thought and culture. In the aspect the University of Mining and Geology (UMG) remains true to the tradition of preserving collections from the fifties – geological reference books, maps, atlases etc. In spite of the limited space the library carefully preserves that scientific and cultural heritage. The national „Geofund“ also preserves the cultural and scientific values of generations. The mineral collections of the UMG – the *Museum of Mineralogy, Petrography and Minerals* and the *Museum of Geology and Paleontology* are of great interest. They collect a great variety of minerals, rocks and ore samples as well as nonmetallic raw materials not only from regions in Bulgaria but also from all over the world. The Museum „*Earth and People*“ is a real paradise collecting the nature and the beauties of Bulgaria passing then to future generations. To save the cultural heritage for future generations means to struggle daily with beliefs and values for tomorrow. And that is the main vocation of the real library.