

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are absolutely justified to expect Mr. Dugall's appearance here doing the greeting according to the announcement in the program. However – it's obvious that I'm not him – and I do apologize, also on behalf of Mr. Dugall for this disappointment.

Nevertheless he asked me – as director of the Bibliothekszentrum Geisteswissenschaften – which is the library in this building here, very close to the conference, to substitute him and to apologize on his behalf for not being able to attend this morning.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's a great honour and pleasure for me, to welcome you today, to welcome you on behalf of Frankfurt University, the organizing committee, including Mr. Dugall and, of course, also on behalf of the University Library.

This year's Scientific Symposium of the University Library is already number six in the row. It was again prepared and organised like some of the previous conferences together with our North American partners. This means that a continuous specialists' discussion and a professional partnership have been already installed. All librarians and information managers are invited to learn more about the results of this co-operation every year when it's time for the next Symposium during Frankfurt Book Fair.

In the past the emphasis was often on the efficient handling and usage, the access of resources and materials in the field of German and North-American Studies. Meanwhile we have a significant broader view on this topic at this year's conference. According to the heading „The world according to GNARP: Prospects for Transatlantic Library Partnership in the Digital Age“ we will deal with different ideas and opinions in 5 selected areas. The German translation – if I may remark that by the way and also regarding the linguistic concerns of our conference – is „GNARP und wie sie die Welt sieht“: when I first read this version my first thought was: Who's that girl? Who's that GNARP-Lady? And what are her prospects for partnership? So as you all know, the German Language needs a personal pronoun in this sentence and in this case it's female.

But back to the main topic and the five major themes: Sessions at this meeting will explore the wealth of library resources – archival, print and digital – available to students and researches in Germany and the United States in five selected areas: North American Studies, German Studies, Judaica, Africana and South Asia/India, highlighting both existing avenues for transatlantic resource sharing along with future prospects. In addition, several other important topics will be highlighted through individual presentations and panel discussions: the Future of German as a language of the sciences; existing and planned electronic journal archives in Germany and the U.S.; print and digital repositories; and a special panel on „comparative cataloging cultures“ on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ladies and Gentleman, increased international co-operation is one of the main issues of current university strategies as it is here at Frankfurt University. In the library and information-service industry national and international exchange and partnership are the basic elements of our success from the beginning. Increased international cooperation is in fact a natural consequence of electronic developments and achievements in the last decades.

Jeff Garret said yesterday: The Atlantic doesn't exist anymore. I think that we do ourselves a great favour to coordinate this phenomenon of global shrinking, for instance, by using the existing tracks of co-operation between German and North American libraries and librarians which we've been using for years and to intensify this professional partnership. Brave new digital world to or fro – with its wonderful opportunities of electronic communication and co-operation on projects simultaneously in different parts of the world! But, what's better than meeting physically - at least every now and then - and why not every year in Frankfurt! What's actually better than talking face to face. To cross the ocean and to interrupt the electronic communication for a short time you need a special occasion, content, organisers, performers, participants, infrastructure and money.

Depending on which of those keywords were addressed to you, you are included in our gratitude. Thank you very much indeed for coming and working with us. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us.

On behalf of the organizing committee, particularly on behalf of Mr. Dugall, I would like to pass on special thanks to those who enabled this conference to take place by giving us their financial support. I would like to mention:

Thompson Scientific

Proquest

US Embassy Berlin

Karger Libri , OCLC, Ovid,

Swets and the .Buchhandlung Bärsch, Frankfurt

Thank you very much indeed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is one of my pleasant duties as your host in this building to provide besides the intellectual feeding, which we should start almost immediately, also to provide you with material comforts. Let me give you some organisational hints:

The schedule shows you when the coffee is ready. Coffee will be served in front of this conference room.

Lunch will be provided in the Casino, the building directly opposite this building. You need your lunch ticket and your name tag. The name tag is important to identify you as a participant of the conference. Tomorrow on Saturday the name tag is your one and only key for getting lunch.

After the general discussion tonight there will be a guided tour in English for those of you who are interested to get some information about the building and the Campus.

Afterwards the bus will be waiting on the street directly in front of the main entrance. The bus will depart at 7.00 pm to bring you to the restaurant in the Römer.

And now, finally all signs are showing "green" for starting „The world according to GNARP“. I wish you a very interesting conference – WELCOME!