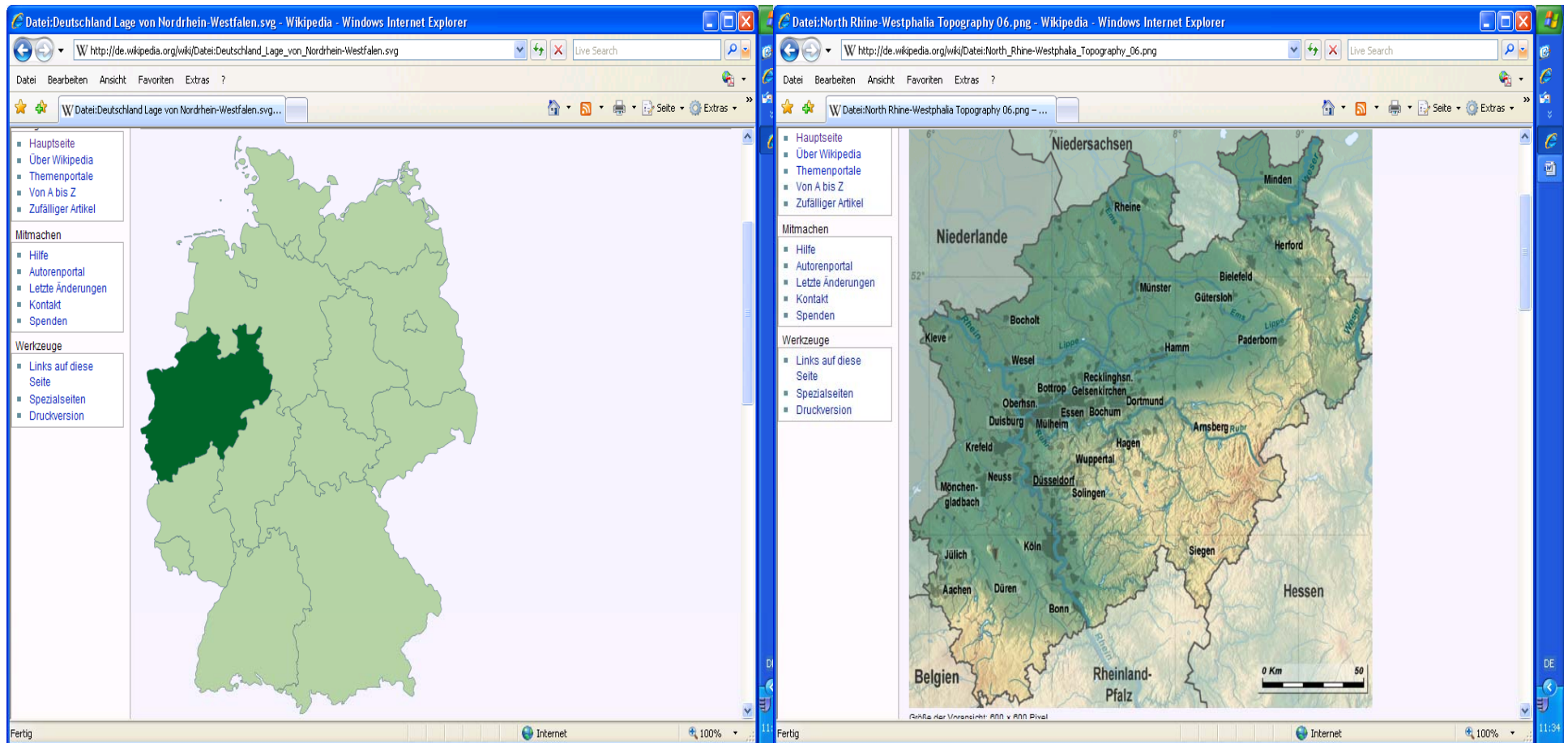


Libraries and Information Structures in North Rhine-Westfalia

AGUB - UBK - VOWB-Meeting in Maastricht, January 15 - 16, 2009

1. North Rhine-Westfalia: history and background information
2. Academic libraries
3. Politics and cooperation

1. North Rhine-Westfalia: history and background information



Source: de.wikipedia.org, 19.12.2008

1. North Rhine-Westfalia: history and background information

North Rhine-Westfalia is a newly founded state, created after World War II in 1949 from several former states and regions.

history reflects in forms and types of libraries:

- regional libraries (Detmold)
- no central state library, but three state and university libraries (Bonn, Düsseldorf, Münster [deposit libraries])
- all types of libraries (public, academic, special, ecclesiastical, companies, in schools and prisons)

today

- Germany's most densely populated state with about 18 m inhabitants
- strong migration from abroad [impact on public libraries]
- deep structural change => new universities and universities of applied sciences
- 61 universities (public and private) with 470,000 students
- more than 50 research institutions

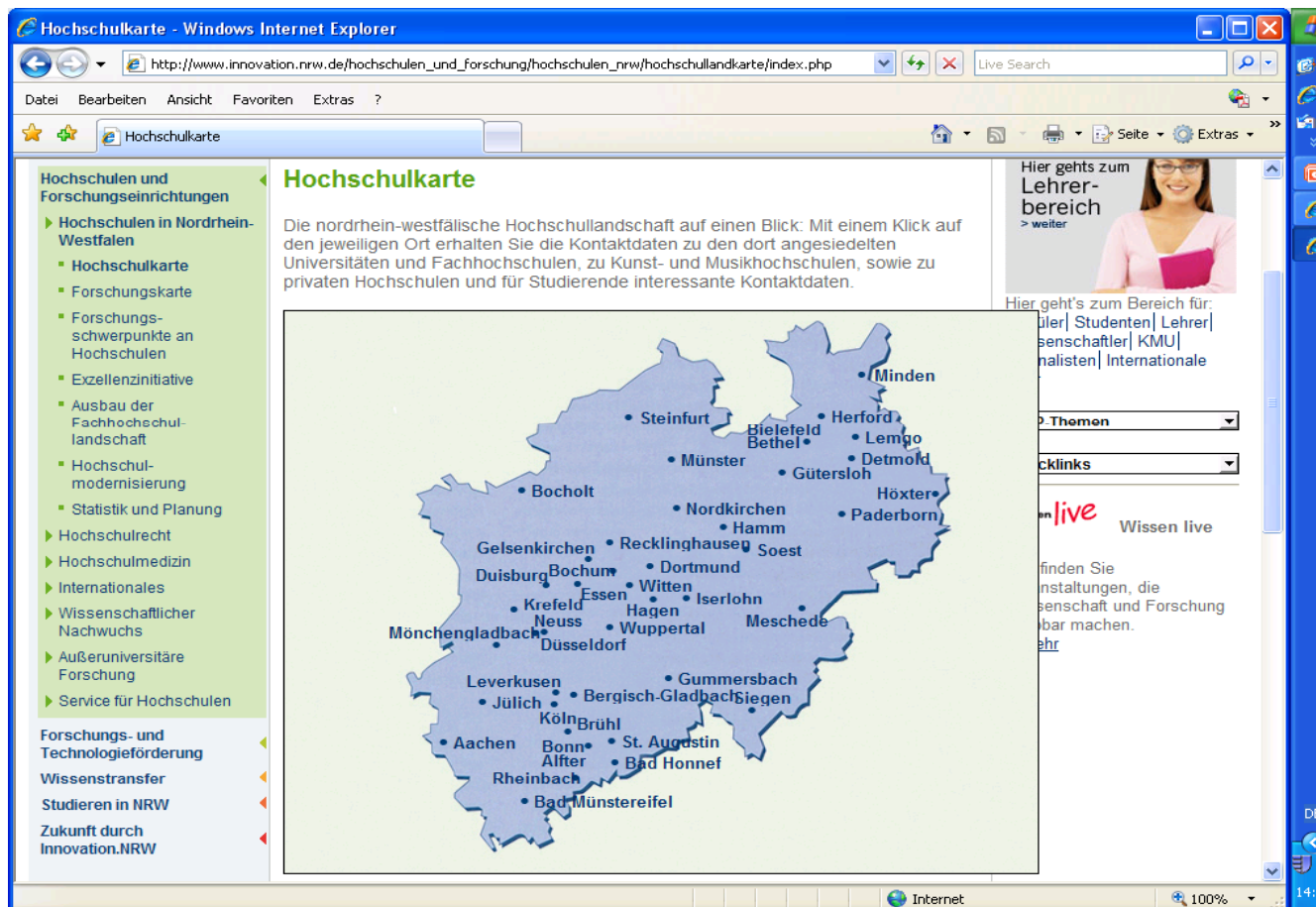
2. Academic Libraries

main **types**

- university libraries
in our context limited to => public universities. Private universities do not share the common infrastructure.
- (state/municipal library, here as part of university libraries)
- libraries of universities of applied sciences
- special libraries
with (public) research institutions, companies

2. Academic Libraries

universities and universities of applied sciences in NRW



source: State Ministry for Innovation, Science, Research and Technology
www.innovation.nrw.de, 19.12.2008

2. Academic Libraries

legal foundations

no original federal responsibility in science, research, culture and education!

combined funding in special areas

substitute for central administration: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

German Research Association

 details

supervision

academic libraries <= ministry of science , research

public libraries <= ministry of culture and education

North Rhine-Westfalia: Higher Education Act in 2007

=> universities under legal supervision of the state and funded mostly by the state

to be managed like companies, sort of entrepreneurial freedom

2. Academic Libraries

Some details on the **German Research Association / Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft**

see English webpages

- organized by academics themselves
- subcommittees for academic libraries and IT-infrastructure (as services to sciences)
- service for libraries e.g. :
 - funding of special subject collections
(Köln: business administration
Münster: Dutch area studies
Bonn: Romanic area studies)
 - national consortia for electronic resources
 - infrastructure/innovation (projects)



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2. Academic Libraries

university libraries: two types

A. old universities

specific German library systems of a central library and many independent decentral libraries (with chairs, institutes, departments)

Köln, Bonn, Münster, Aachen

B. new universities

centrally managed library systems

Düsseldorf

Bochum

Bielefeld

Dortmund, Duisburg-Essen, Siegen, Paderborn, Wuppertal

Hagen (distance/open university)

3. Politics and Cooperation

new universities => impact on library services and structure

shared cataloguing = union catalogue, managed by a Library Service Center

Hochschulbibliothekszentrum (HBZ)

system of **union catalogues** in Germany

6 unions, defined by regions (more or less)

German National Library (Frankfurt – Leipzig – Berlin) -> standards, national registers

[ISSN, ISBN, URN]

national union catalogs for serials (ZDB, EZB)

union catalogs used for:

1. interlibrary loan, traditional union card catalogues
2. shared cataloguing
3. recently: innovative/digital services

members: all libraries (public and academic), state and university libraries with largest holdings

3. Politics and Cooperation

A. institution: **Library Service Center (HBZ)**

- manages the union catalogue, interlibrary loan
- provides statistics (national library index) and benchmarking data
- innovation : digital library, open access (publication services)

B. organisation: **North Rhine-Westfalian Library Association** (Verband der Bibliotheken des Landes NRW/vbnw)

- represents all types of libraries
- acts as lobbyist, expert advisor, regional branch of the German Library Association

- subdivisions and committees

=> AG UB (Working Group of University Libraries)

(other working groups are for Libraries of Universities of Applied Sciences, for large, medium and small Municipal Libraries, Ecclesiastical Libraries)

3. Politics and Cooperation

AG UB

how it works

- 16 members (libraries of 13 universities, German Sport University Cologne, German National Library of Medicine Cologne, Library Service Center)
- guests: representatives from the Ministry, other subdivisions of vbnw)
- steering committee (head and two proxies, elected from assembly for three years)
- meets irregularly (about 5-6 times per year)
- is supported by standing working groups for user services, cataloguing systems, training

what it does

- prepares the transposition of directives from the ministry (considerably reduced since Higher Education Act)
- coordinates the libraries' demands on the Library Service Center
- organizes further training
- provides peer-to-peer consultation and common efforts for modern library services