

E-learning model for Polish libraries – BIBWEB

Case study

Purpose

This article describes important role of e-learning in Poland and cover experiences in transferring and localising the course, know-how about how to find strategic partners and establish a sound infrastructure for e-learning and guidelines how to get and use feedback from the learners to continuously improve the quality of the course.

Design/methodology/approach

The article describes the situation in Polish library world and the process of implementation and conducting the online course for librarians "bibweb". It also relates how the course improves information literacy.

Findings

Libraries in Poland can considerably strengthen their role as an element of the information and knowledge society by expanding their offers regarding Internet access and e-learning. The situation in Germany in 1999 was comparable to the current situation in Poland. As a reaction to this, the Bertelsmann Foundation initiated an online course offer comprising three modules: "bibweb – Internet training for libraries" (online at www.bibweb.de), which met with great acceptance in Germany. For this reason, it made sense to translate the existing successful course product and adapt it to the special requirements of libraries in Poland. The Bertelsmann Foundation and its two project partners, the Warsaw University Library and the "Elektroniczna Biblioteka" (EBIB) library information service have jointly developed such a Polish-language online course (www.bibweb.pl) and offer it on the Internet to the specialist target group since 2003.

Originality/value

This paper shows benefits of international educational project. Polish experiences concerning e-learning may be useful for other nations.

Keywords: e-learning, library trainings, training methodology, Polish librarians training course, European librarians cooperation,

E-learning, remote training, distance education – all these trendy yet unfamiliar expressions have recently entered Polish library world. Librarians gradually get accustomed to them as they offer a new, enthralling quality. However, these concepts can be fully understood only when one experiences the processes they describe. Continuing education via distance learning has been known and available for some time but the development of technologies has enforced changes not only in tools but also in the content and methodology of distance education.

The European Union and Polish government have been recommending e-learning as a new methodology for continuing education and qualification upgrade programs. Details of e-learning are discussed in *Strategia rozwoju szkolnictwa wyższego w Polsce do roku 2010* (*The Strategy for Expanding Higher Education in Poland by 2010*) [6]. E-learning in Poland has been gaining popularity not only among education