

Session 3 - 22nd 16.00-17.30pm

Theme: Libraries and learning/teaching

Room: B029

Maria Isabel Santoro

Director of the Library System, UNICSUL – São Paulo – Brazil

Maria Cristina Olaio Villela

Technical Director of the Libraries Division, Escola Politécnica, USP – Brazil

Teresinha das Graças Coletta

Technical Director of the Library Service, São Carlos School of Engineering, USP – Brazil

THE IMPACT OF COOPERATIVE ENGINEERING LIBRARY SERVICES ON TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN BRAZIL

Abstract:

The development of the area of information in engineering in Brazil began in the 1970s with the creation of the Complementary Engineering Library (BICENGE), whose aim was to keep complete collections of periodical publications. At the same time, the Brazilian Institute for information in Science and Technology (IBICT) and events in the field, particularly the National Seminars of University Libraries (SNBUs), consolidated cooperative services in the country. In 1994, a notable event was the participation of UNICAMP in the Pilot Link Libraries Project (LibLink) of the Iberoamerican Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC) which started up electronic exchanges in the field of engineering with the use of Ariel software, which had a great impact on the obtaining of documents for researchers, teachers and post-graduates. This impact was the basis for the creation of the Library Network in the Field of Engineering (REBAE) at the SNBU. Consequently, rapid, efficient and low cost access to information and documentation in technological fields has brought library services better quality of attendance and has considerably improved their credibility. The sharing of collections has been a strong point in the development of information in engineering, with special note being made of the ISTEC Consortium, which operates in other relevant fields such as: Continuing Education and Distance Learning; Research and development Laboratory and Los Libertadores and REBAE, and which has centred its efforts on the indexing of articles from specialist Brazilian periodicals. At the turn of the Millennium, there was support from State and Federal Government resources, which equipped teaching and research institutions with the extension of information generated from international databases and electronic magazines.

The infrastructure made possible by these initiatives promoted the growth of scientific production created by teaching and research programmes in the country, thus guaranteeing a dominant position in the Latin American ranking.