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Networking Excellence - the IATUL Special Interest Groups Initiative

In times of scarce resources and complex service portfolios library management has to focus in on setting priorities and making work procedures more efficient. One obvious approach could be the establishment of a network of experts with the intention to share relevant experience amongst members, thus supporting each other with the challenges of our daily work. International professional associations provide an innate framework for this kind of initiative. To that aim the IATUL board discussed the idea of introducing special interest groups as a means to promote the exchange of specialized knowledge and experience in particular subject areas of librarianship. Suggested task forces are

- Library Organisation and Quality Management Group
- Information Competence Group
- Architecture and Restoration of Library Buildings Group
- Virtual Library and open access

As an initial task force the board established the IATUL Special Interest Group on Library Organisation and Quality Management (IATUL SIG-LOQUM).

After a first meeting at the 2008 IATUL conference in Auckland, the group members agreed to conduct a survey among member libraries in order to narrow down the particular needs and expectations in technological libraries concerning quality management.

The present paper is meant to give an account of the above mentioned survey results and report on the IATUL SIG LOQUM activities that resulted from the discussions so far.

Reiner Kallenborn studied mathematics at Saarbrücken University, Germany, where he graduated in 1982 (diploma thesis). He completed his doctoral thesis in mathematics at Kaiserslautern University in 1987. After postdoctoral research in mathematics and high energy physics he became a library trainee at Kaiserslautern University. He pursued his studies in librarianship at Frankfurt library school, where he graduated in 1991. From 1991 until 1999 he served as a subject librarian and head of the branch library for mathematics and computer science as well as IT project manager at Technische Universität München Library. Apart from his involvement in library work he was a lecturer for statistical inference methods at Munich University of Applied Sciences. He currently is university librarian of Technische Universität München. Reiner Kallenborn is a board member of the International Association of Technological University Libraries (IATUL) and currently serves as the IATUL treasurer.