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Initiatives and experiences of the LIBER Division on Library Management and Administration

The main aim of the LIBER Division on Library Management and Administration has been to promote and encourage the interpersonal exchange of experience and best practice among senior librarians. New developments in management and administrative practice, quality measures (tools and methodology) as well as library staff permanent development, and difficult question of senior staff succession seems to be hot topics discussed during the LIBER Annual Conferences, business meetings, or workshops and seminars. The Division acts to encourage the debates on these topics organizing panel discussion or seminars where special interest is given to the library assessment, including benchmarking, especially a seminar in march 2007 in Paris about "Measuring quality in libraries". Special initiatives, as an attempt to study European research libraries' organization charts lead to interesting general findings. On the other hand the study was a real challenge and instructive experience for Division members on other members of LIBER interest in sharing special activities. A general remark on various forms of the Division's activities is that the most difficult is to focus a large group of colleagues on special interest initiatives, and mostly to elaborate common tools and disseminate precise results, with an update. Direct links between LIBER and IATUL in solving such questions could be inspiring and fruitful.

Jolanta Stepniak is currently director of The Main Library at Warsaw University of Technology (since 2003). She is also involved in library cooperation initiatives as Secretary of the Executive Board of the Conference of Library Directors of Academic Schools in Poland. Fields of activities include: library administration, organization of library consortia and library cooperation dedicated to developing digital library collections and to improve access to electronic licensed resources. Member of LIBER Division on Library Management and Administration since 2002.