

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THEORY AND RESEARCH TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF LIBRARIES

According to the new wording of the mission of the Scientific Library of the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU), our library, “is a Belarusian university library, which is characterized by its breadth, expressed in the diversity of the stock’s coverage of engineering and technical disciplines (*but not only these ones*); in providing transnational access to information on these disciplines (*but not only these ones*); in servicing BNTU employees and students of all specialties (*but not only those working and studying at BNTU*); in presenting a variety of library and information services. Assistance and training services are provided not only to readers, but also to authors. The daring and qualified staff of the library valued by the library management strives to improve the qualifications of users directly or indirectly, to promote the papers of researchers in such scholarly publications that are visible to the whole world, and also, on the basis of the principles of open science to popularize the published papers and books by authors from BNTU and the results obtained by them. We also contribute to arousing students’ interest in scientific work, helping them “to open the door to science”. The promotion of the book and culture in general, the education of the user is also the subject of our concern, our essential value.

At the same time, the Library welcomes the cooperation of both specialists and groups within the library itself (maintaining faith in the value and uniqueness of each individual employee), and interlibrary, interinstitutional cooperation.

We strive to ensure high-quality and effective access of users to information that will contribute to educational, research, professional activities, cultural and ideological education of students and university staff. We strive to be ready for the challenges of the future and to foster such readiness among our users”².

Considering this text, it can be noted that not all the above-formulated requirements are met literally, that individual elements of the mission statements often correspond not to one highlighted function, but to several ones at once. All this should not be surprising: it is known that classifications are always poorer than the systems they reflect, that “the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Cor., 3:6) or, if you like, that “*grau <...> ist alle Theorie*”, as formulated by Goethe...³

Can we talk about the beneficial effects of the new mission statement? Within the three years after the approval of the new mission, the library made a great progress in the development of the repository, the promotion of scientific papers of the University employees in journals indexed by scientometric databases, in the development of profiles of researchers facilitating promoting transparency of their work, etc. Apparently, a certain incentive for this progress was the new “Mission of the BNTU Scientific Library”, which, “meeting” the reader at the entrance to the library, simultaneously” could have led him (her) to an idea to seek “help and training services”. Who knows... of course, it is impossible to single out the exact share of the mission statement’s contribution to this library progress. Or maybe we just don’t need to single it out? After all, success factors are complex.

In any case, we believe that the “adventures” of the full-fledged mission statement of the BNTU Scientific Library have only just begun

² Since our University has such strong non-purely engineering faculties as the Faculty of Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship and the Faculty of Management and Humanitarization Technologies, our library has the corresponding strong thematic fragments of its stock and the services provided to specialists and students of these faculties. Also, in addition to library and information services, the BNTU Scientific Library provides educational, advertising, etc. services. These and similar circumstances give rise to the formulation “*but not only*”, indicating that, in addition to the specified activity, another one is being performed—not the main one, but meaningfully closely related to the main one. In order to preserve the harmony of the reflection of the key characteristics of the library, the description of such activities is intentionally not specified.

³ https://www.gutzitert.de/zitat_autor_johann_wolfgang_von_goethe_thema_denken_zitat_6033.html

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At the end of the article, the authors would like to quote a phrase that greatly inspired us both to write the paper and to write the principally new mission of our library: "...mission provides the basis for a culture that will guide future executive action" (Pearce II, 1982, p. 15).

Conclusions

So, since we cannot recognize the mission statement of an organization crafted in accordance with the definition of the term "mission" of the dictionary of the ISO 9000 quality management systems standard as an effective management tool, we have clarified the list of functions that, as their analysis of the literature shows, are performed by a full-fledged mission statement of the university scientific library. With the use of the updated list of functions, a working functional definition of the mission statement of such a library has been developed. Guided by the latter, we have crafted a new wording of the mission of the Scientific Library of the Belarusian National Technical University that forms the attractive image of the library in the eyes of its users, encourages them to apply for services in editing their profiles, choosing journals for submitting papers and others aimed at increasing the visibility of their work, promotes consolidation of the library staff... etc. We believe that the contribution to the progress of our library in recent years has also been made by the existence of its new mission statement, by the fact that *it is being read*.

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ПРО ПОВНОЦІННУ МІСІЮ НАУКОВОЇ БІБЛІОТЕКИ УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ

Формулювання місії (mission statement) організації, складені лише відповідно до визначення терміну «місія» у словнику стандарту систем менеджменту якості ISO 9000, не можуть бути визнані ефективним інструментом управління, оскільки вимоги ISO до цього документа є загальними. **Завдання** цієї роботи: уточнення функцій формулювання місії (mission statement) університетської бібліотеки як управлінського документа; розробка визначення формулювання місії, що складається переважно з переліку її функцій; та розробка повноцінного формулювання місії (mission statement) Наукової бібліотеки Білоруського національного технічного університету на основі розробленого функціонального визначення mission statement. Відповідно, **методами** роботи були пошук та інтерпретація відповідної наукової літератури та синтез отриманих з неї даних для розробки нових документів (визначення mission statement, самої mission statement) на їх основі. В **результаті** створено визначення mission statement як повноцінного ефективного управлінського документа та розроблено mission statement нашої університетської бібліотеки. Коротко **обговорюються** аспекти підвищення ефективності роботи бібліотеки після ухвалення нової mission statement.

Ключові слова: mission statement; функції; визначення; ефективність; університетська бібліотека

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