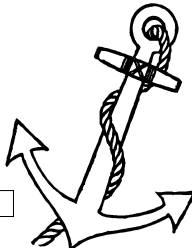


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Curricular Anchoring of Key Competencies


How the University of Bielefeld (Germany) Intends to Get There

by Silvia Herb and Stefanie Haacke



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European Educational Policy




- harmonizing the European secondary education System to make degrees transferable to different countries
- modularizing course content to make students „transferable“ to different universities
- developing a credit-point-System (ECTS) to make qualifications transferable to different universities
- giving credit points for key competencies to make graduates „transferable“ to professional life

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Key Competencies as Explicit Goal

German Accrediting Council 2005:
Minimum Requirements for Key Competencies



- „it must be stated by the university ..., how and to which extent key competencies are to be taught“
- „key competencies can be taught as part of the subject syllabus, or by generic interdisciplinary modules“

(Quotations translated from: Mindestanforderungen an Schlüsselkompetenzen, Beschluss des Akkreditierungsrates vom 20. Juni 2005, URL: <http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/schlüsselkompetenzen.htm>, Downloaded 09.03.2006)

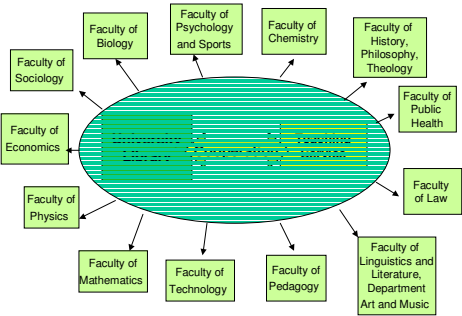
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Academic Key Competencies – the Bielefeld Approach

- training/learning by doing ...
- support in developing good studying or working strategies (= key competencies)
- ... in courses of the discipline (= part of the subject syllabus)

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Anchoring Key Competencies Cooperation and Collaboration



Faculty of Sociology

Faculty of Biology

Faculty of Psychology and Sports

Faculty of Chemistry

Faculty of History, Philosophy, Theology

Faculty of Public Health

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, Department of Art and Music

Faculty of Mathematics

Faculty of Technology




Faculty of Pedagogy

Faculty of Physics

Faculty of Economics

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Key Competencies in Libraries

- traditional librarian task: teaching information literacy
- different aspects accentuated in accordance with the changing importance of various informational resources:
 - up to the 1980s : library literacy 
 - 1980s – 2000 : online resource handling skills 
 - 2000 - : new challenge: evaluating and selecting the relevant from the information flood 

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A Shift of Focus in Teaching

- cooperating and communicating with peers and university teachers
- writing
- managing study projects
- presenting papers and giving talks
- managing one's own studies and life
- research (information literacy!!)

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Cooperation with Faculties - Analogous Goals

Teaching Service and University Library:

- service for teaching staff and curriculum developers
- enhancing awareness for explicitly including key competencies in teaching activities
- supporting teachers in developing the dimension of competences in their teaching
- supporting faculties in anchoring the dimension of competences in their curriculae

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Cooperation with faculties – Some Common Difficulties

- search for strategies to attain systematic change (instead of single and individual results only)
- achieving recognition for librarians/teaching consultants as teaching staff and/or experts
- defining levels of competence / informational literacy
- finding appropriate ways for assessing competencies
- developing a model for awarding credit points for library courses (up to now CPs can only be awarded by faculties)
- producing quality in spite of large student bodies

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Cooperation with Faculties: the Teaching Service's Approach

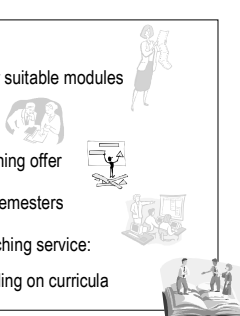
- faculty development
- team-teaching with teachers in different subjects
- cooperative development of courses with a focus on key competencies
- training of student tutors
- training of PhD-students and teaching assistants as instructors
- no(!) course program for students to relief faculties of including the dimension of key competencies in their teaching/curricula ...

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Cooperation with Faculties: The Library's Approach

the subject librarians:

- scan teaching curriculae for suitable modules
- contact the teaching staff
- design matching library training offer
- test and improve over 1-2 semesters
- via coordinators and/or teaching service: contact faculty bodies deciding on curricula



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How Library and Teaching Service Cooperate

- we exchange ideas and information on key competence development
- we share contacts and concepts
- we promote our respective activities
- we watch out for cooperation opportunities

