

Dear Colleagues,



On behalf of the International Association of Scientific and Technological University Libraries (IATUL), it is an honour and a pleasure to extend the best wishes of IATUL to the delegates of the 2nd International Scientific and Practical Conference “*Library of higher school at a new stage of social communications development*”.

Education is a cornerstone of peace and development in all societies in the world. Humane living conditions are always based on consideration and respect for our fellow human beings, which in turn are nourished by mutual understanding. Mutual understanding, however, requires insight into a larger context, clarity in complex situations, and the ability to act in an appropriate and professional manner – in short, mutual understanding calls for education.

Universities and comparable institutions are the guardians and developers of higher education in every country. The work of specialists in any domain of knowledge, though, relies on the management of knowledge and information already obtainable. This, finally, is our mission as librarians, and the topic of the conference taking place at Dnepropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport Scientific and Technical Library.

The extent of our responsibility is high, its complexity calls for exchange of experience of stakeholders, and therefore international collaboration is advisable. Discussions of common goals and challenges in the context of a conference never fail to provide inspiration and new suggestions to be realized at your home institution to the benefit of your own patrons. Conferences will always be facilitators for new ideas and services, which is also the mission and the never ending ambition of IATUL. Over the last few decades, IATUL has in fact developed to be of service to all university libraries in the world, irrespective of their specific focus.

Given all the obstacles - lack of resources, bureaucratic entanglements and other trials modern libraries are faced with - our work as librarians is both a great challenge and an exciting assignment. A library is a test bed for new technologies; we are even involved in the development of new tools and services in information management. A library provides a cosmos of opportunities for professional development: administration, data management, software development, and service optimization, web oriented methods and communication, building and refurbishment, and much more.

I am sure that the 2nd International Scientific and Practical Conference “*Library of higher school at a new stage of social communications development*” will provide an excellent platform to share insights in all these aspects of our efforts to provide the best services for our patrons.

Please allow me to wish you fruitful discussions, interesting workshops, and brilliant papers at your event at DIIT.

Best wishes,

Dr Reiner Kallenborn

IATUL President