

Report on 21st BOBCATSSS Conference, January 23-25, 2013 Ankara, Turkey

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BOBCATSSS is an annual conference series that is traditionally organised by students from European universities. It takes place under the auspices of EUCLID (European Association for Library and Information Education and Research) and deals with themes from library and information science. Every year it is organized, managed and provided with content by students from Eastern and Western European universities.

The organisation and planning of the BOBCATSSS conference is a joint venture between two countries and two universities. The teams from Copenhagen (The Royal School of Library and Information Science) and Ankara (Hacettepe University Department of Information Management) worked together for BOBCATSSS 2013. Every aspect of conference organization was carried out by students. The students had a great experience in terms of teamwork with different European countries and cultures.

The main theme of BOBCATSSS 2013 Conference was "From Collections to Connections: Turning Libraries 'Inside-Out'". The conference took place at Hacettepe University's Conference Center in Ankara, Turkey, from January 23 - 25, 2013. The sub-themes of the conference were Serving Society in a Digital Age, Information Professionals as Change-Agents, Designing New Library Spaces, Mobile Information Services and Developing New Competencies.

The BOBCATSSS 2013 Conference received considerable international attention. The total number of submitted contributions for this year was 137. All contributions were reviewed by three reviewers. Fifty-seven papers, including four pecha kucha papers and 30 poster contributions, were accepted after the reviewing process. These results show that the acceptance rate of conference was about 72%. Accepted contributions were presented by their contributing authors via parallel sessions (see the programme at <https://www.conftool.pro/bobcatsss2013/sessions.php>). Furthermore, conference statistics show that approximately 250 the conference participants represented 31 countries from 4 different continents. Statistics also reflect that BOBCATSSS brought different cultures together. Twitter statistics show that participants tweeted their experiences about BOBCATSSS in eleven languages. Thanks to the IFLA NPSIG group, the tweet archive of BOBCATSSS 2013 is available at: <http://storify.com/npsig/bobcatsss-2013>.

In comparison to previous BOBCATSSS conferences, for the first time participants enjoyed two new sessions: the LIS Schools session and the Pecha-Kucha session. Pecha Kucha is an entertaining presentation format for which the speakers are allowed 20 slides with only 20 seconds for each slide. Although there were just four presentations for the Pecha-Kucha session, they were great fun for presenters and audience.

The first day of the conference opened with a keynote speech by Lorcan Dempsey, who is the owner of the term, "libraries inside-out". He delivered an inspiring keynote, which was entitled "The inside-out library: scale, learning, engagement". Dempsey's speech was followed by a Turkish folk dance performance by professional dancers from Hacettepe University. The second part of the first day began with Ragnar Andreas Audunson's keynote speech "From collections to connections and information professionals," which was one of the main components of the BOBCATSSS 2013

Conference theme. After the keynote speeches, the first workshop sessions of the conference started with five parallel workshops and the LIS Schools session. Seventeen schools and their LIS education representatives took part in the LIS Schools session with the aim of new collaborations. The Digital Library Learning program and IFLA also presented in this session. Papers, pecha-kuchas and posters were presented during the second and third days of the conference. In the closing session, Jelke Nijboer from Amsterdam University of Applied Science was announced as the BOBCAT of the year by the EUCLID Board. Prize winning works were also announced in the closing session. After being selected by reviewers and the best papers jury, the best paper award was presented to Todd Soumela and Suzie Allard to their paper "Libraries as Centers for Science Literacy and Public Science". In addition, "FaBio - Mannheims Library on a Bike" was selected as the best poster by the poster evaluation jury.

The 22nd BOBCATSSS will be held in Barcelona, Spain next year, on 29 - 31 January 2014. The website for BOBCATSSS 2014 is <http://bobcatsss2014.hb.se/>. The BOBCATSSS 2014 teams will be the University of Barcelona from Spain and University of Borås from Sweden. Their promo video is available at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDxJ4f8t_-w.