

**ALYTUS COLLEGE****ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN SOCIETY:  
CHALLENGES, TENDENCIES AND PERSPECTIVES**

Academic papers

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# THE SEARCH GOES ON – IN THE WORLD LIBRARIES<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

There are possibly more than one million libraries throughout the world today. It is nevertheless obvious that not all scientific researchers or general users of libraries have access to relevant and valuable literature to the extent that is desirable and appropriate. What literature in the English language on innovation, entrepreneurship, and social entrepreneurship is available in the world libraries, and is there interest in acquiring more? This article presents analysis and results after visiting 93 libraries in 61 countries on four continents.

**Keywords:** Joseph A. Schumpeter, innovation, entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurship, library, diffusion of science.

## Introduction

In 2003, I defended my thesis for the philosophical doctorate in economic history at Lund University. The title of the thesis was In search of the Entrepreneur – can Joseph A. Schumpeter's theory be used to identify and differentiate entrepreneurs in the 21st century? The search goes on – 10 years have brought valuable new knowledge and dissemination of independent international science out, not only in the Nordic waters, but also worldwide. It is nevertheless obvious that not all science environments, scientific researchers or general users of libraries have access to relevant and valuable literature to the extent that is desirable and appropriate. Innovation and entrepreneurship are disciplines, which require broad participation from people if society is to develop in a democratic direction, and that is exactly why the dissemination of information, like a book or articles are of great importance, both in terms of knowledge and contexts as inspiration for the individual.

What literature in the English language on innovation, entrepreneurship, and social entrepreneurship is available in the world libraries, and is there interest in acquiring more? This article consists of the following sections: abstract, introduction, challenges, methods, diffusion of science project principles, year 2012 – 2015 visits and diffusion of science (four sections), results of visits and diffusion of science, conclusion and list of references. Informants are listed separately.

## Challenges

In year 2009 only 72,3 % of all university libraries, 37,3 % of all public libraries, and 30,0 % of all school libraries throughout the world offered Internet access to users (IFLA WORLD REPORT 2010).<sup>3</sup> The use of filtering and blocking software is widespread; only 43,1 % of all Internet access globally is open for users. Furthermore, only 63,3 % of government-funded libraries offer Internet access. At the same time 87,6% of all countries have legislation that guarantees freedom of access to information and freedom of expression principles. The international open access movement addresses the cost barrier as a hindrance of free availability to literature on the Internet, but it seems that –the only barrier is gaining access to the internet itself" (Tise, Raju, 2012: 13)<sup>4</sup>. Subscriptions for journals in English are too cost heavy for a great number of libraries. Books and printed articles available from library repository serve the function in an excellent way.

There are possibly more than one million libraries throughout the world, covering the Americas (North and South America), EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India) and Asia Pacific (Asia, Australia and Oceania) (OCLC: 2014)<sup>5</sup>. A library is defined as a private or public collection of any size between f. ex. fifty books on a shelf to the largest libraries in the world containing 158.007.115 physical items (Library of Congress, 2013)<sup>6</sup>. Libraries are located everywhere and can be found in capitals, large cities, suburbs, villages, in the desert, in the jungle, on small islands far out in the ocean, in deep forests and on high mountains. Physical access to libraries is sometimes a challenge both for practical and political reasons. Practical because of bad weather conditions, lack of transport infrastructure, remote location and thereby expensive (and dangerous) access. Political because of riots, terrorism and war, which make access dangerous, expensive and sometimes impossible to achieve.

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<sup>2</sup> This science project is fully funded by Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute.

<sup>3</sup> IFLA WORLD REPORT 2010 [http://ifla-world-report.org/files/uploaded/ifla\\_wr/IFLA-WR-2010-Analysis-and-Conclusions.pdf](http://ifla-world-report.org/files/uploaded/ifla_wr/IFLA-WR-2010-Analysis-and-Conclusions.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ellen R. Tise, Reggie Raju: (2012) Libraries in the early 21th Century. De Gruyter Saur, Berlin. Red. Sharma, Ravindra N.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oclc.org/global-library-statistics.en.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-009.html>

Language spoken on site is never a direct challenge because there will always be someone in the staff or among the users who masters at least one European common language. Still language is a challenge. Words have different meanings and the contents and understanding of the process behind different words differ from one country to the other. This research is concentrated on three main keywords: Innovation, entrepreneur and social entrepreneurship. It is obvious that not all librarians or staff have knowledge, interest or skills in these highly specialized scientific topics. First, there is a widespread confusion of the terms innovation and invention, of the connotation based on a political national program and the strict scientific understanding of the expression. Furthermore, the term entrepreneur has a very different meaning in countries like e.g. Norway and Sweden. Norway has just picked up the expression entrepreneur in the meaning of a social agent in the economy, while in Sweden the term covers anyone active in society, like a politician, a priest, the garbage run, a businessperson or a single mother. Finally, social entrepreneurship is a new concept for most librarians and libraries throughout the world, and it is easily mixed up with social enterprise, social innovation, social economy, being social or even socialist philosophy, philanthropy and so on.

Different catalogue systems are in use throughout the world, which acquire a firm check on the materials listed under keywords. It takes an expert in the field to make reliable comparisons and quantifications on relevant materials.

## **Methods**

The research project is based on visits to libraries, universities, research centers, archives, NGOs and individual elite experts on site. All kinds of libraries are subject for participation in the project: university libraries, public libraries, school libraries, research and scientific libraries, national libraries, private libraries, collections of NGOs etc. As a rule, there will be no contact with the library before the visit, except in those few cases when some libraries on request will be requested by other libraries, governments or individuals to be visited and joining the project. The head librarian or the one who is in charge of the department relevant for the research will take part in the conversation, without any limits of the number of staff participating. The procedure is the same for all visits: introduction of the research project, aims and results, collection of data, and donation of printed books and articles. The project aims to satisfy a two ways information flow, what is to be found in the world libraries of books and articles on innovation, entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurship, and donation of printed books and articles on the same topics.

Librarians or department representatives are asked to document inventory of books and articles in the English language covering the three keywords. The documentation process is based on the use of Internet, data search, manual catalogues, or physical inspection of library repository. Library staffs are also asked to document the use of the inventory as far as possible and appropriate. Librarians are also asked about the policy of acquiring more books and articles on the three themes.

During the visit, the librarian is asked to accept a donation of printed books and articles, include the material in the library inventory and make it accessible for all users. The receiving unit will give a receipt and later send a letter of confirmation to the donor.

All visits are documented by photography of personnel on site, repository and other relevant information. Visits on site are conducted as a one-time event.

Each visit on site is subject to its own analysis and documentation. A selection of libraries visited each year will be presented in articles and lectures covering that specific year out of the total number of years covering the whole project period. The final and total conclusion will sum up all findings covering all aspects of the project.

The choice of libraries to visit follows its own logic. There is no systematic selection based on criteria like most important libraries, location, size, most needed or any other foreseen selection criteria. Thus, this scientific project runs parallel with another scientific project named *In the Footsteps of the Early Joseph A. Schumpeter*. Some activities and library visits have been part of both projects. One motive has been a desire to visit as many libraries, in as many countries on all five continents as possible, up to a limit of one hundred libraries in seventy countries on five continents.

## **Diffusion of Science Project Principles**

In the process of diffusion of science under and after visits at libraries, both donations of printed books and articles and education are of the highest value. Successful donation should never be a passive activity. To fit into the methodological framework of the science project, giving information about the disciplines covered by the donations is justified and appropriate. This project is not about handling dead material, therefore pedagogical, educational as well as scientific approaches are in focus during talks taking place during visits. All kinds of personnel on sites should look at themselves as much as ambassadors of science and education that they understand themselves as wage earners. Libraries of all kinds are important in dissemination of knowledge to the public as well as to decision makers. Motivation and skills of the employees are important tools in the diffusion process of science.

The process of diffusion of science in this project pays attention to the contents of the printed books and articles donated during visits on site. Some of the material is written in the English language, some in the Norwegian language and with abstracts in English. All libraries in the project have received books in English and some have additionally received books and articles in Norwegian. All donated books and articles are authored by Jan-Urban Sandal and funded by Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute.<sup>7</sup>

Diffusion of science also includes information about ongoing science projects and educational programs at Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute, as well as information about Fil Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute global university network and Summit conversation on emerging issues in social entrepreneurship<sup>8</sup>.

Year 2012 Visits and Diffusion of Science

Year 2012 is the first year of The Search Goes on – in the World Libraries project. The diffusion of science to libraries and universities begins with visits to 25 institutions visited in 20 countries on four continents. The countries are (to mention some) Sweden, Finland, China, Mongolia, England, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Algeria, The Czech Republic, Ukraine and Lithuania.

The year is not random, it marks the centennial to the publication of the first edition of Joseph A. Schumpeter's book *Theorie der Wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung* (The Theory of Economic Development) which was first published by Duncker & Humboldt in Leipzig 1912.

There is an obvious advantage to start this presentation by first going to Trieste (today Trest in Czech Republic) and Chernowitz (today Chernivtsi in Ukraine), respectively Joseph A. Schumpeter's birthplace and the city where he took up his first post as a young professor in 1909. Today the municipality operates a museum in Schumpeter Haus in Trieste, one of the houses that the Schumpeter family owned, with a collection of books and articles by Schumpeter and scientific publications in relation to the world-renowned economist's life and scientific work. The museum's director Milina Matua says that the museum has a good number of visitors. Interestingly, relatively many visitors from Japan walks through the Schumpeter exhibition.

Joseph Schumpeter came to the university in Czernowitz (now Yuruy Fedkovich Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine) in 1909, at the time the capital of the Duchy Bukowina and an outpost in the empire of Austria-Hungary. When Schumpeter stayed in Chernowitz he devised the theory and wrote the book about the entrepreneur as a social agent in the economic system. Docent Maria P. Dyachuk has put considerable effort into systematize Schumpeter's work and in 2011 the second edition of *The Theory of Economic development* was translated into Ukrainian.

In Asia, it was natural to visit Mongolia and China. In Mongolia, I visited the university library at the National University of Mongolia in Ulan Bator. Interest in my books was great. Social entrepreneurship is not yet a topic in the curriculum and I found no trace of English literature in that discipline. In Beijing, it was natural to contact Tsinghua University and library of Humanities and social science. The library is newly built and opened for use in April 2011. The library has large collections of literature in English donated by among others journalist Mr. Epstein and Professor Robert Cohn at Boston University. Literature on innovation and entrepreneurship is available but social entrepreneurship is currently a new field.

San Pedro is a two-hour journey by speedboat from Belize City. The island has in recent years become a popular tourist spot with a lively atmosphere. In Belize English language is spoken and it is not difficult to find literature on innovation and entrepreneurship in libraries. At the library in San Pedro there is great interest for social entrepreneurship and ideas shotguns: study circles, evening classes, startup, and new organizations etc. New acquisitions are lined up in a showcase, immediately calls are underway, and several of the library visitors are showing interest.

The new building that houses *Bibliothèque Nationale d'Algérie* in Algiers has the capacity to 10 million books and currently includes a collection of 2.5 million units. Research and Information Director Bouzid Khelili is enthusiastic about innovation and entrepreneurship, but even here, I do not find any trace of social entrepreneurship.

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<sup>7</sup> The books donated through the project are *Jakten på Entreprenøren*, ISBN 91-22-02020-9 (Searching for the Entrepreneur), *Sosial – Entreprenøren – agent med rett til å endre*, ISBN 978-82-300-0338-1 (The Social Entrepreneur – agent with the right to change), *The Social Entrepreneur Pyramid With a Nordic Perspective on Social Entrepreneurship*, ISBN 978-91-633-6459-4, *Summit Conversations on Emerging Issues in Social Entrepreneurship 29 Summits*, ISBN 978-82-93329-00-8, and *Social Entrepreneurship Summit 5 Years 2008 -2013*, ISBN 978-82-93329-01-5. The articles donated are *Sosialt Entreprenørskap*, ISSN-1101-346X, No. 96, 2004 (Social Entrepreneurship), *Den Sosiale Entreprenør – et Case*, ISSN-1101-346X, No. 101, 2006 (The Social Entrepreneur – a Case), *Introduksjon til Joseph Alois Schumpeter: Entreprenørprofit – et insitament til demokratisk utvikling*, FI-ISSN-0013-3183, 1/2011 (Introduction to Joseph Alois Schumpeter: Entrepreneurial Profit – An Incentive for Democratic Development), *Arbeid, Innovasjon og livets strevsomhet*, FI-ISSN 0013-3183, 3/2012 (Labour, innovation and strenuousness of Life).

<sup>8</sup> Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute, [www.janusandal.no](http://www.janusandal.no).

## **Year 2013 Visits and Diffusion of Science**

Year 2013 marks the second year of the project. During this year, 25 institutions were visited in 16 countries on three continents. The countries are (to mention some) the USA, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Austria, Moldova, Spain, China, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Bonn University is entirely rebuilt after bombing during WWII. Here are taught by what's in the books, and the scope of the literature on innovation and entrepreneurship is not strikingly large. The university is still of importance in innovation and entrepreneurship science for two reasons. Firstly Schumpeter was employed here as a professor in 1925. The couple Anna and Joseph Schumpeter moved into Coblenz Strasse 39. However, on 3 August 1926 a terrible tragedy occurred, Anna and their newborn son died during confinement. After this tragedy, Schumpeter and with him the heavy point for innovation science, moved to Harvard University.

Harvard University in Cambridge Massachusetts was founded in 1636 and is named after John Harvard, an English immigrant priest who by his death donated half his fortune of 780 pounds and holding of 320 science books to the creation of a college. In the innovation and entrepreneurship context, the university is of great importance, primarily because Joseph Alois Schumpeter was employed here in 1932 and was active as a professor until his death on January 8, 1950. Harvard University inherited Schumpeter and has in its possession 139 archive boxes with documents by the world-renowned economist. Naturally, the university library has a very rich stock of science literature on innovation and entrepreneurship, but an interesting and important development, among others, as a result of my stay was the creation of a new track in HOLLIS, Entrepreneurship Scandinavia which had not existed previously.

The National Library of Laos was opened in 1956 and moved into its current premises in 1988. The building is in French style, originally from 1923, and served from the start as a government residence. The National Library has an inventory of approximately 300,000 units, (with 6,000 manuscripts on palm leaves) five local branches and mobile libraries. The budget for acquisitions in 1998 totaled \$ 100 - so the library is totally dependent on donations from public and private sources. Germany, Australia and Japan have made large donations. The National Library has also contacts with ASEAN countries. A priority at the National Library is the development and training of staff, which counts 33 employees, all with academic education from bachelor to PhD level. During my visit, it was made clear that the interest and need for literature, but also education in innovation and social entrepreneurship, is large.

### **Year 2014 Visits and Diffusion of Science**

Year 2014 marks the third year of the project. 39 institutions were visited in 24 countries on four continents. The following nations and states were visited in 2014 (to mention a few): Sweden, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, UAE, Egypt, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia Hercegovina, and Serbia.

The history of libraries in Kosovo dates back to the 14th century. The National Library of Kosovo is situated in Pristina, located in a new building from 1982 designed by a Croatian architect. The building itself is extraordinary but it also represents a problem because water is filling its basement where important and very old documents are stocked. Director Bedri Zyberaj welcomes the donation and confirms that innovation and social entrepreneurship could become important and most relevant disciplines in Kosovo. Summit of social entrepreneurship, lecturing and joint international research would be important activities in the diffusion process of new science. Like most other post-Communist states, funding is a problem.

Social entrepreneurship is not a big topic at the National Library of Poland. The library is specialised in Polish literature and preservation. At the same time, the library undertakes an important role in research, documentation, and library science. Michalina Byra representing the reference centre at the National Library of Poland receives the donation and answers all questions on the process of diffusion of science. The books donated are now available for all users at the library.

Head of the Information resource development group at the National Library of Thailand, senior librarian Supanee Sukarbjai and her colleague Aree Wattenasriyakul, professional librarian, centre for exchange and interlibrary loan, are very interested in social entrepreneurship and innovation. The National Library of Thailand has extensively cooperation with the National Library of Laos and libraries in other ASEAN countries. The need for literature on social entrepreneurship and innovations is great, they report.

## **Year 2015 Visits and Diffusion of Science**

Year 2015 marks the fourth year of the project. Four institutions were visited in Japan: Hitotsubashi University Library, National Diet Library of Japan, Tokyo University Library and Archives, and Kobe University Library. The project will go on with several more visits throughout the world during the fourth year.

On January 28, 1931, Dr. Joseph Schumpeter, who then was a professor at University of Bonn stood at the platform of Kanematsu Auditorium of the Tokyo University of Commerce, now Hitotsubashi University. He was on his way back home from Harvard University. That Wednesday morning, he was to give his first lecture in a series of performances during his short stay in Japan. When leaving Japan on Saturday February 7, 1931, he had also delivered speeches at the Industry Club of Japan, Tokyo Imperial University,

now Tokyo University, Kobe University of commerce, now Kobe University and given a speech through Radio Osaka. Schumpeter left behind some 200 books, 500 periodicals and 1,000 pamphlets, which he had started to collect after he moved to Harvard University in 1932. His collection was donated to Hitotsubashi University Library by the professor's wife Elisabeth Boody Schumpeter. The donation was completed by the American Embassy in Tokyo on February 28, 1955. The donation is kept as a special collection at the university library named Prof. Schumpeter Library.

Hitotsubashi University Library was founded in 1885 and is located in one of the finest buildings on the campus. The library holdings contains 1,940,000 books, 16,700 periodical titles and over 16,000 E-journals, and is regarded as prominent in the social sciences both in Japan and abroad. In 1991 the library was designated as one of the European Documentation Centre's (EDC, renamed in 2006 as European Info, EU i), and the library promotes and supports studies and research concerning the European Union. Professor Seichiro Yonekura, expert and leading figure on innovation research and specialist on Schumpeter's theory confirms that the legacy after the famous economist is still alive at the university. Even though no specific center at the university is dedicated to Schumpeter's ideas, innovation and entrepreneurship is a relevant subject. Social entrepreneurship has not yet caught the interest of the university.

The National Diet Library of Japan was established in 1948 and opened its doors to the public in June the same year. The idea of the library is based on the firm conviction that truth makes us free and with the object of contributing to international peace and the democratization of Japan as promised in our Constitution. (...) The National Diet Library shall collect books and other library materials for the purpose of assisting the members of the National Diet in the performance of their duties and also for the purpose of providing certain library services as hereinafter specified for the executive and judicial agencies of the national government and for the people of Japan.<sup>9</sup>

Kyoko Kubomiya, assistant director for the foreign materials division, receives the donation. She confirms that social entrepreneurship is a new discipline, and even though they have some books on the subject, most of the material consists of reports from international organizations and governments.

## Results of Visits and Diffusion of Science

The results of the project so far are extensive. 93 institutions in 61 countries on four continents have been approached until February 2015. All institutions visited have responded to the requirements comprising the three main keywords for the project. Talks with hundreds of staff on site have contributed to diffusion of information and education on innovation, entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship to key personal at libraries of all kinds, research centers and experts. The visits have given a clue of how the situation is at institutions visited when it comes to the question of literature on the investigated themes. The project aim is not to quantify in exact numbers the stock of relevant literature at each institution or to sum up the total number of books and articles searchable worldwide.

As the project has proceeded, several governments and governmental representatives have noticed the ongoing project and formally asked to be a part of the project. These countries will be added to the project during its final part.

The project has also added several classes and individual students to the list of ongoing education on The Social Entrepreneur School IBS worldwide, and more is to come in the near future. Many of the visited libraries have already expressed in writing their acknowledgement and gratitude for being included in the project and receiving donations of books and articles that now are open for regular users. Many universities and libraries of all kinds as well as individual experts have expressed their wishes to be part of Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute Global university network and Summit conversations on emerging issues in social entrepreneurship as keynote speakers or hosts. A large number have already fulfilled their wishes.

## Conclusion

The project has given valuable information about the actual situation on availability of literature in the English language on innovation, entrepreneur and social entrepreneurship at units visited throughout the world. Even though no quantification will be made it is a non-disputable reality that the global center of innovation, entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurship today is the USA. All other regions are lagging behind. A huge portion of literature counted for in the libraries on the three topics are reports published by governments and global organizations and do not qualify as scientifically independent, non-political or objective literature. When it comes to skills and educations on the three topics among personnel on site, the picture is quite promising. Staffs are highly motivated and interested in the themes and express their positive attitude to learn more.

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<sup>9</sup> National Diet Library of Japan, <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/shinri.html>

Donations of printed books and articles and talks with staff on site have proved considerably valuable. The project is still running and will produce further results.

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Pasaulyje tikriausiai yra daugiau nei vienas milijonas bibliotekų. Vis dėlto akivaizdu, kad ne visi mokslo darbuotojai ar bendri bibliotekų vartotojai turi prieigą prie svarbios ir vertingos literatūros tiek, kiek pageidautų ir/ar jiems reikėtų. Kokia literatūra yra prieinama pasaulio bibliotekose apie inovacijas, verslumą ir socialinį verslumą anglų kalba, ir ar yra interesus įsigyti daugiau? Niame straipsnyje pateikiama 93 bibliotekų iš keturių pasaulio šeimynų aplankymo analizė ir rezultatai.

**Raktiniai žodžiai:** JosephA. Schumpeter, inovacijos, verslininkai, socialinis verslumas, biblioteka, mokslo difuzija.