Knowledge Sharing across Campuses at SDU and the Evolving Role of Library

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Abstract

In recent years, knowledge sharing has become a great concern for multi-campus universities. They need to identify and implement the most effective ways for improving university performance by fostering collaboration environment across campuses.

Since the research libraries are an integral part and the nerve center of many universities with their support of teaching, research and other academic activities, strategies for knowledge sharing are needed both for multi-campus universities and their libraries.

With the advent of the information and communication technologies, which plays a significant role in knowledge sharing, influences in every aspect of academic libraries, and the way information and knowledge are handled between libraries and universities.

The aim of our project is threefold. Firstly, we will review relevant literature on contemporary issues for knowledge-sharing behavior in multi-campus universities. Secondly, we will examine factors affecting the role of the library in providing right information for researchers. Thirdly, we will exemplify how to apply an appropriate model for a multi-campus academic library, where the aim is to facilitate exchange knowledge by individual researchers who want to cross disciplinary boundaries alone or in collaboration with others that initiate and support research and teaching along campuses.

For the latter purpose we have chosen our home institution as case: The University of Southern Denmark is a multi-campus university, which operates in several cities. Therefore, how we plan and carry out our teaching and research activities as well as all the services and support is an important factor.

Research Questions

- From the perspective of researchers, how can the library support academic needs, provide networking, and reduce institutional barriers between main campus and satellite campuses?

- How can library expertise be used towards knowledge sharing among researchers?

- How can the library contribute to the scholarly formation of doctoral students?

Methods

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Literature Review	Personal Interviews	Analysis and Recommendations

PhD Café

PHILOTEKET
PH.D.-OMRÅDE

"Getting dressed for the PhD process is gold"
Café guest, new PhD student

"I am all by myself at my department. The café is a great chance to meet other PhD Students."
Café guest, PhD student

Data and Observations

12 in-depth interviews were conducted. IPs were selected from SDU's PhD Schools in Social Sciences, Humanities and Engineering, aiming at balanced gender and discipline representation. All IPs were close to completion.

Systematic interviewing and coding resulted in conceptual maps. Each map shows how perceived characteristics of the PhD study are mentally linked to important life values through perceived consequences (enhancers or barriers to the doctoral journey).

Conclusions

- PhD students felt lonely and experienced barriers related to perceived inferior competences in project planning, navigating the university, and information seeking.

- These issues are now addressed in a PhD Café arranged by the Library. The café contributes to cross-diciplinary network, process competence-building and cross-campus cooperation.

- Further research is needed to identify role of the library to meet academic needs, provide networking, and to reduce institutional barriers by developing practical ways between main campus and its satellite campuses.

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SDU