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Innovation through Co-operation

The History of LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) 1971–2009

By Esko Häkli

LIBER, the principal association of research libraries in Europe, was founded in 1971, under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The driving force behind the new association was a small dedicated group of European librarians, whose goal was to give European research libraries, national and university, a distinctive and compelling voice in the international library community.

This book covers the years of the LIBER Association from 1971 to 2009 and documents a unique period in European history. After the sudden collapse of Communism the renewed contacts between librarians and the restored co-operation between research libraries across the whole of Europe led to the robust research network that is being built today.

The book also charts the information technology revolution in European research libraries and its profound effects on how libraries serve their users. In this process, LIBER has played an active role in encouraging and developing a strong network of research libraries across Europe and in fostering positive co-operation among European research libraries.

Professor Esko Häkli is a former Finnish national and university librarian and President of LIBER (1995-1998).

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