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Liebe Doktor Mehrländer,

In October 2007, I had the privilege to participate in the Library Study Tour to Germany. As a Master's student in Library and Information Studies at the University of Maryland, I thought it was a tremendous opportunity to enrich my education. There is certainly no doubt that our itinerary was jam-packed with visits to a variety of different libraries. Part of what made this tour a success was the access we had to so many places.

The other reason our trip was successful was because our hosts, Evelin Morgenstern and Dr. Christine Wellems, did a fantastic job showing us around Germany. Morgenstern in particular is to be commended for keeping the group organized, punctual, and entertained.

For me, there were three particular highlights to the trip. Both Stasi archive and the Federal Foreign Office Archives were fascinating looks at both German history and archival presentation. The Bavarian State Library also offered a unique look into digital preservation efforts, both with its current in-house work and with its work with Google. It was nice to have a little background into the type of deal Google struck with libraries to move forward with their program.

However, I do not want to sound like I am slighting any of the other places we visited during our two week tour. Each and every one of these libraries offered us insight.

I only have two quibbles with the tour. First, I think we could have used one more full day on the trip just to ease the strain of catching trains. Leaving on a train in

the morning to get to Dresden in the afternoon, then leaving Dresden the next night to go to Munich was a bit rough on the travelers.

The only other change I would make to the program is to have a more formal introduction on the first night of the trip. While all of the participants got along great, and became downright chummy by the end of the tour, it would have been nice to have a little introduction at the beginning that would have given us a sense of what each of us does.

On the other hand, I can't complain too much about this, since it was the informal opening night dinner that I was introduced to Berliner Eisbein:



Ultimately, I thought the trip was a rousing success, and I would heartily recommend it to any other colleagues would be interested in attending a future trip.

Sincerely,

Christopher Zammarelli  
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P.S. – I have been writing recaps of our trip on my blog [Libraryola](http://www.libraryola.com). My posts about the tour are at <http://www.libraryola.com/category/germany/>.