# How to become academic librarian in Germany

Dr. Philipp Erchinger, 09.08.2019

# About myself

- Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)
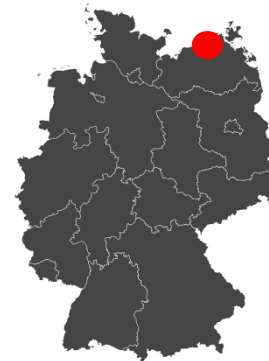  **Biogeography**, Univ. Trier


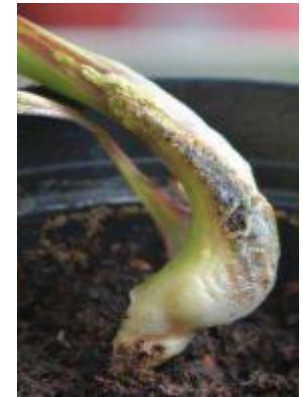Porta Nigra




Large marsh grasshopper
(*Stethophyma grossum*)

- Master of Science (M.Sc.)
  **Plant pathology**, Univ. Rostock




Late blight of potato
(*Phytophthora infestans*)

(Own picture, ⊘ )

# About myself

- PhD (Dr.) **Microbiology**, Max-Planck-Institute, Marburg

Corn smut
(*Ustilago maydis*)

- **Trainee: Academic librarian** (Referendariat)
KIT Library (Univ. Karlsruhe)

Since October 2018 (-Sep 2020)

(Own picture, ⊘ )

# Education in Germany

- In general, pupils leave high school

  …after 9 years → basic graduation level
  …after 10 years → medium grad. level
  …after 12 years → higher grad. level (Abitur)

  > Apprenticeship (job training + school)
  > Study

- Three paths to end up in the library

  …after 9 years → basic graduation level ☹
  …after 10 years → medium grad. level
  …after 12 years → higher grad. level (Abitur)

  > Apprenticeship: FaMI*
  > LIS Bachelor / Master

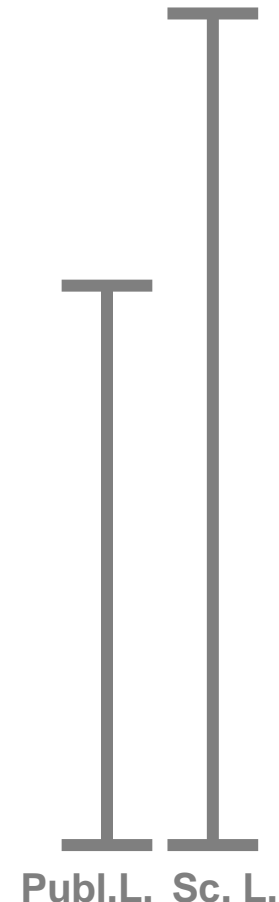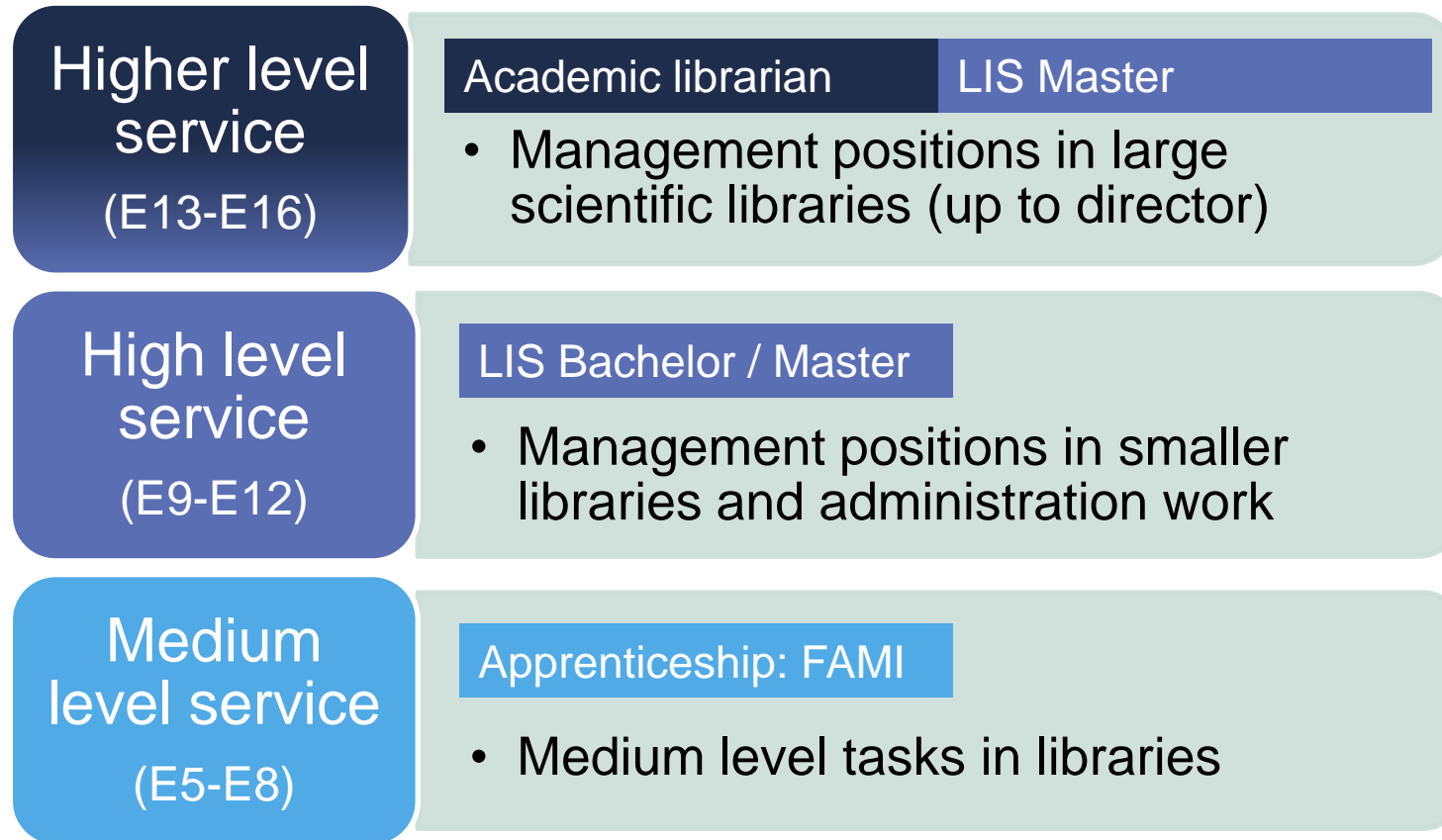  …after Master or PhD

  > Academic librarian

(*) Fachangestellter für Medien- und Informationsdienste

# Personnel structure of a library

German public service

| Higher level service (E13-E16) | Academic librarian / LIS Master<br>• Management positions in large scientific libraries (up to director) |
|---|---|
| High level service (E9-E12) | LIS Bachelor / Master<br>• Management positions in smaller libraries and administration work |
| Medium level service (E5-E8) | Apprenticeship: FAMI<br>• Medium level tasks in libraries |

Publ.L.   Sc. L.

# Traineeship: Academic librarian

## Why train a scientist to become librarian?

| Higher level service (E13-E16) | Academic librarian | LIS Master |
|---|---|---|
| | • Management positions in large scientific libraries (up to director) | |

- Academic librarians traditionally associated to the institutes / professors → part of the scientific staff

- Scientists as "subject librarian" (Fachreferent) provide <u>ideal literature supply</u> for students and faculties

- "Added" value from scientists for cross-sectional tasks (knowledge of publication process or scientific writing, expertise for RDM etc.)

# Traineeship: Academic librarian

- Requirements:    Master or preferably PhD
  (depending on subject)

- Tender:    Libraries alternate and choose desired
  subject of the applicants
  (depending on resources)

- Duration:    2 years
  (1 year practice / 1 year school)

- Perspectives:    → acquisition (generally) not assured!
  But only ~30 graduates in Germany per year
  for a good number of positions

# Traineeship: Academic librarian
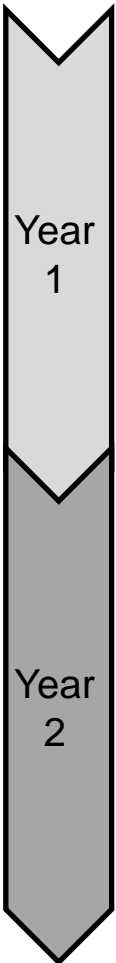
## Practice

Year 1


KIT Karlsruhe

- Sit in every possible department of the library for about 1-5 weeks
- Assistance in projects / pursue own projects
- Go to conferences, workshops and visit other libraries as **intern**


Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen    Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart    Stadtbibliothek Freiburg
High Court Karlsruhe    TIB Hannover
BLB Karlsruhe    UB Tübingen    PH Freiburg

**NTK Prague**
UB Heidelberg
Speicherbibliothek Büron    ZB Zürich    HSG St. Gallen
Const. Court Karlsruhe    UB Konstanz    UB Freiburg

(Own picture)

# Traineeship: Academic librarian

## Practice and theory



Year 1


KIT Karlsruhe

Year 2


BSB Munich

- Sit in every possible department of the library for about 1-5 weeks
- Assistance in projects / pursue own projects
- Go to conferences, workshops and visit other libraries as **intern**

- Back to school: "High-speed" LIS Master
- Write exam
- Look for a job in summer 2020

(Own picture, ⊘ )