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This issue

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

UPDATES ON PUBLIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN SCANDINAVIA

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- Many of us living in Scandinavia take it for granted, we often don't even think about the fact that it is not the same for everyone. We can say, read and write almost anything we want, and some people do, without consideration for those who might get offended or deeply hurt. This issue of SLQ is about freedom of speech. As some of the texts in this issue touch upon, freedom of speech it is perhaps not only a freedom but also a responsibility and sometimes this responsibility falls upon libraries.



Annika Hjerpe
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In this issue of SLQ, you can read about this, in addition to a lot of other things. I hope you will find it interesting and informative. I also hope that you will help us evaluate SLQ by answering our questionnaire at: <http://survey.kb.se/Survey/62>

The next issue of SLQ will reach you by the first half of December.

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Freedom of speech: MORE than free and equal access to information

As a public institution of enlightenment, the library is in a position to safeguard one of modern democracy's most important building blocks: Freedom of speech.



Tine Vind

Free and equal access to information is one of the library's most important tasks, apart from the materials collection and the loan of books, periodicals and newspapers, and now the choice of materials has widened to incorporate e-books, audio books and access to computers in the library.

However, the library's role has changed. Many libraries endeavour to ensure that the citizens reflect on the knowledge they acquire, and provide the opportunity for independent opinion shaping.

Debating skills

As you will see from one of the articles in this issue of SLQ, the head of the Central Library in Copenhagen suggests that the libraries, for example via workshops, offer the citizens the chance to take part in the public debate.

Freedom of speech actually means that all citizens can express exactly what they want, in writing or verbally, publicly. But many people do not have that opportunity, because they have not acquired the competences or the language necessary, neither at home nor at school. This is where the libraries can step in, either in collaboration with primary and secondary schools or associations, or independently.

Source criticism

In many ways, the internet has challenged the libraries, but also enriched them and given them a lift. However, whereas the libraries are able to keep track of the physical materials they offer, the net overflows with articles, features and debates, to which everybody has access and of which nobody can claim to possess an overview.

This produces a need for learning to practise source criticism; a natural process entailed in the publication of a physical work, which had to be approved by a publisher and an editor, but which is not necessarily exercised when publishing online. Here the libraries can contribute towards the citizens' reflection on the material they find, physically as well as virtually.



Freedom of expression is "hot"

By reflecting on the material one reads, whether on the net or at the library, you also reflect on the concept of freedom of speech.

Source criticism helps you understand, who is saying what and why, which has an impact on the individual citizen's own forms of expression. Here the libraries can safeguard freedom of speech by helping the citizens, regardless of gender, age, social group and ethnicity, to participate in the public debate. Not just by learning rhetorical devices, but being discriminating in relation to one's own and other people's assertions. Through reflections on freedom of speech and attempting to understand others, the possibility presents itself of entering into a dialogue about difficult subject such as religion and politics.

And as an institution of enlightenment in the 21. century, it is most certainly a task where the public library can make its contribution.

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The libraries' democratic function STANDS FIRM

Participation of secret service agents, media storms, ministerial inquiries and then, this February, the firings of arms, are some of the things that events in Danish libraries and cultural centres have encountered over the past couple of years. This, however, will not influence the character and nature of events to come in Danish libraries.

When the Danish poet Yahya Hassan in 2013 gave a recital at a library in a deprived neighbourhood called Vollsmose the library management had expected nothing more than the usual – like so many poet recitals before it. However, the event took an unexpected turn. Yahya Hassan's debut poem collection, carrying his name, had been released a month earlier and had stirred up a storm and uproar nationwide.

The event ended up being cancelled and moved to a neighbouring school, where the police turned out in strength in the company of secret service agents, police dogs and no-fly zone restrictions.

Yahya Hassan's recital is one of many

examples of how libraries and cultural centres lately have been involved in situations that question their role in relation to freedom of speech. When the secret service goes hand in hand with libraries, the natural question is how the libraries reflect on this issue and what should be taken into consideration or changed in the future.

No closed shelves

To Peter Hansen, head of department at the library in Vollsmose, the recital in 2013 hasn't changed the planning and conduction of events at the library.

"To us it began as a recital as any other. It was a collection of poems that were both

new and interesting. The fact that the police and the secret service made a sinister threat assessment was out of our hands. We couldn't do much and we haven't changed our position on events at all."

He points out that the library of course takes stock of the situation and that they cooperate closely with the local police, but the same goes for events, as for the materials available on the shelves: Everything is accessible for everyone. No matter if it's Yahya Hassan's poems, books about Hitler or Hunger games.

"They are displayed side by side. No closed shelves here. We make it available and then it is up to people to decide what they want to read," says Peter Hansen.

Head of Libraries in Copenhagen, Jakob Heide Petersen, agrees. They keep the collection up to date regardless of the current media frenzy or headlines. "I would rather have children read Tintin in Congo and take a stand themselves, than for the library to hide it away," he points out.

Ministerial inquiry and media storm

Long before anyone had ever heard about Yahya Hassan, the Royal Library in Copenhagen was asked, by the minister of



Eva Obelitz Rode



The debut collection of poetry, *Yahya Hassan*, had a first print run of 800 copies at the beginning of 2013. In December 2013 the collection had a circulation of 100,000 copies. First edition of the book was printed in 19 editions. It is the best-selling debut collection of poems in the history of Denmark. The poetry collection has been sold for translation to the The Netherlands, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland, Brazil and Germany.

Yahya Hassan (born 1995) is a Danish poet with Palestinian background and since 2015 also a politician of the Danish National Party. He was protected by bodyguards from the Danish Security Intelligence Service (PET) from 2013 until 2015.



Yahya Hassan surrounded by media after his recital in 2013 at Vollsmose Library. Photo: Dreamstime

culture at the time, to cancel the letting out of their premises to an event hosted by Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

It was the director, Erland Kolding Nielsen, who received the call from the minister, Per Stig Møller. He wanted to know why the organization had been allowed to rent the Royal Library hall. Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a political party ideologically built on Islam. Twice they had been investigated by the Danish Public Prosecutor and let go.

Back then, Erland Kolding Nielsen, stood firm on his decision not to discriminate against any organisation or individual based on ideology, race or religion – keeping to the Danish Constitution, that holds freedom of speech, assembly and association in high esteem.

However, he did point out that there's reason to distinguish between events that the libraries host themselves and the ones hosted by others on the library's premises. The only viable reason to cancel the Hizb-ut-Tahrir event would be safety, he finds.

A question of safety

According to Jakob Heide Petersen the libraries and cultural centres in Copenhagen are also aware of the question of

safety, especially after the shootings in Copenhagen last February. One of the shootings took place in Krystalgade, on the footsteps to the main library. However, it has not changed their position or planning of events and exhibitions. Only if the police make a negative threat assessment, the event is cancelled.

“But we are no more or no less concerned with which exhibitions we put on, but rather with the quality, versatility and diversity of our events and exhibitions. We are not obliged to present every angle and opinion. But if it represents a controversial point of view, we bring in the opposition,” explains Jakob Heide Petersen.

The role in democratic capacity building

The libraries' role in relation to freedom of speech is especially evident in relation to the current culture of debate. The libraries contribute differently than the media and digital platforms, in that they can provide the physical frame for new meetings and new relations.

“In larger cities like Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm and Oslo it is important that there is a place where we can meet. Where people can meet. From different

parts of the city and with different backgrounds. That is essential for at big city,” he says.

Achieved through workshops

But the library is not only the physical frame. It is also the sense of democracy that is extremely important.

“It is an important part of the libraries' role to assist – in a qualified and educated manner – the users in communicating their views and opinions in a variety of media. We need new ways of debating and new forms of communication – and much more reflection and debate about what freedom of speech really means. Hand in hand with freedom of speech we should try to understand and accommodate each other much more,” says Jakob Heide Petersen.

He adds that this, for example, could be achieved through workshops, where those who do not usually dare to speak up and voice their opinion, could be included and heard.

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POWER, VIOLENCE, BODIES **and** BOUNDARIES

There must exist a genuine interest in the *Other* and a real intention to learn FROM rather than ABOUT others. Otherwise, only ossified essences and stereotypes are reproduced and we become incapable of heterogeneity and pluralism.



Nick Jones

In public discourse of late, also when the roles of libraries are debated, the topics of racism and anti-racism in Sweden are prevalent. In the context of our current climate, I allude to discussions exemplified by the inclusion or exclusion of *Tintin in the Congo* in the TioTretton Library in Stockholm and the discussions on antiquated norms and values with the re-release of early Swedish children's and youth literature, the use of the Swedish 'N' word, and Stina Wirsén's character *Lilla Hjärtat* (The Little Heart) with its debate aftermath regarding racist stereotypes. I also take into consideration Makode Linde's cake performance on World Art Day at Moderna Museet in Stockholm. This involved the Swedish Minister of Culture and Leisure, Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth, cutting a black cake shaped as a gollywog character.

The racism debates

The discussions have also centred on the REVA 'right of residence' project, whose activities and methods – aimed at deporting irregular refugees – were criticised for being racist, and whether Swedish society is able to document equality statistics based on people's self-identified ethnicity in order to study discrimination. Discussions have also focused on wider developments whereby a political party

hostile to foreigners is attracting ever greater support in opinion polls.

There are indeed many more examples, but here I designate all these discussions under the umbrella term 'the racism debates'. Nobody in Sweden has been able to avoid them. I wish to contribute some perspectives regarding these debates, without going in detail into any single one of them, since these racism debates are more interesting and important in terms of what they say about Swedish society, and thereby on the overall context in which the libraries operate, than as limited phenomena in themselves.

The lack in conversation

I see clearly, when racism is under discussion, that always – in one way or another – one comes back to the issue of power, violence/symbolic violence, limits and indeed bodies. I also see in racism debates and in everyday life – at work and in private – a great inability to think and speak about racism; to such an extent that one gets stuck in the discussion without repudiating, reshaping or repositioning it. Sometimes it so happens that, for the purpose of this discussion, we wholly lack tools, techniques and language.

The frenzy in the debates is thought, in certain quarters, mostly to involve identifying the issue, determining who is racist,

concluding the debate and ascertaining that racism does not exist in society's structures and its everyday life.

This incapacity, and the denial of racism in everyday life which is a consequence, quite clearly reinforces the hidden position of racism. What is needed, and what is lacking, is a conversation about racism where racism is not relocated to other bodies and places.

For, in these discussions, if I can place myself in the structure or in the context that is being considered, it must soon become so complex and ambiguous that I inevitably see the need for an unfinished constructive dialogue.

New perspectives on the grand narratives

For many public libraries, as for society as a whole, the racism debates are difficult to relate to. They raise issues concerning the libraries' responsibilities, the tasks and role in society of the library employees, and the selection of media and decisions that the libraries carry out on a daily basis.

Self-images comprising tolerance, knowledge and equality have been shaken to the foundation. I may be painting a picture in broad strokes of the brush, but it is my opinion that the public libraries responded to those who asked really important and justified questions concerning the work of the public libraries in countering



racism through fleeing to what the philosopher Jean-François Lyotard calls the grand narratives (metanarratives).

The libraries spoke about freedom of expression, information freedom, democracy, neutrality, independence, the fighting of censorship et cetera. Then one got stuck in these general and sweeping narratives that can easily be used to mask the fact that reality is more contradictory than this.

The grand narratives operate to reinforce the existing order and as a supposed legitimization of what is truthful and correct; they also make claims on clarity where such does not really exist. It is therefore essential to break down and put into perspective these grand narratives so that they are not used as a resort for silencing critical, marginalised and important voices.

Let us take the freedom of expression as an example. It is undoubtedly an important right, but is it an obligation to use it to wound and to provoke? Can the freedom of expression, which is intended to allow voices to be heard, also silence voices? Is the freedom to express oneself also a skill that we need to exercise and practice?



- From app. 2006 *Tintin in the Congo*, published in colour in 1946, was criticised several times for expressing a racist colonial attitude to the Congolese and the African people in general. In Belgium, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the United States attempts were made to ban the publication – especially to children.

- Swedish author and illustrator Stina Wirsen created in 2012 a fictional character, “Lilla Hjärtat”, who became a

popular figure in her books for children. A few years later however it was criticised for being a racist stereotype.

- Makode Linde is a Swedish performance artist and musician. He created a cake named Painful Cake in 2012 to an exhibition at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm. The Swedish Minister of Culture Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth cut the first slice. This created a worldwide debate and some claimed the resignation of the minister.

Power and knowledge

Issues of power and knowledge – and how these interconnect – have been really prominent in the current racism debates. I believe, as the philosopher Michel Foucault asserts, that power and knowledge are inseparable. Knowledge does not only deliver power but this power generates the knowledge it requires to be sustained in power and thereby structures the conditions of dominance (dominance relationships).

An established way of understanding, speaking about and relating to the *Other* has become accepted. A kind of regime of truth is created that determines what knowledge is, who the legitimate subject of this or that knowledge is, and who and what shall be the object of the creation of knowledge of others. Knowledge is formulated and is made true and real.

A good example of this is what the philosopher Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak calls the “worlding of the West as world”, wherein the advantaged Westerners’ own interests are passed on as being those of everyone in east, the whole world’s interests. Spivak describes this as a kind of violence through knowledge production. A violence that results in distortions, stereotyping, incorrect generalisations and a sanctioned lack of knowledge (ignorance).

Reconsider the normal

It is undoubtedly a choice that is made and a demonstration of power to remain ignorant, not to listen and not to learn. This sanctioned ignorance disguises “the worlding of the world” and is keen to place the responsibility for marginalisation on the marginalised and to pass vulnerability on to the vulnerable.

“Great men create history, but only such history which it is possible for them to create”, says the historian CLR James. The path to change must pass through the critical review of privileges, examination of one’s own conceptions, prejudices and assumptions, through the work of attempting to understand how these arose and became natural and given. Self-evident knowledge and self-evident positions

which are deemed to be fully normal must be able to be reconsidered.

A new discourse

There must exist a genuine interest in the *Other* and a real intention to learn FROM others rather than ABOUT others. Otherwise, only ossified essences and stereotypes are reproduced and we become incapable of heterogeneity and pluralism.

This is, of course, a constantly ongoing process which can never finally be summarised or concluded – a continuous recoding and interpretation and attempt at translation for the sake of understanding and that is as true (accurate) as possible. However, with an awareness that “In every possible sense the translation is necessary but impossible”, as Spivak says. We shall always fail but we must, nevertheless, always try.

I am put to the test when critical and important questions are asked of me as a public servant by users, clients, citizens, ‘customers’, or whatever I choose now to call them. This test becomes even greater from the circumstance that it is you who own these activities in the public sector, and also through the fact that the democratic chain – at the end of the day – is my principal (authority).

A moral responsibility

The preamble in the Swedish Instrument of Government gives a clear picture of how the public powers in our society are intended to be exercised. These powers shall emanate from the people. In connection with the racism debates questions are raised, among other things, about racism, problematic stereotypes and how the work of public libraries and children’s culture operates and appears.

“ I have a moral responsibility that I am unable to surrender to anyone else. Public servants, at all times shall namely monitor that the overriding public values are implemented and observed. A functional political democracy must be characterised by process values such as openness, mutuality and responsibility

To formulate problems is an important act of power, and I see clearly how the original questions at issue, where the initiative has often come from marginalised voices, are then reformulated to concern or come down to the aforementioned grand narratives (metanarratives), with-

out due qualification (nuance) or recognition of complexity. Many of those who asked the critical questions are then described as censorious, virulent and oversensitive. Those posing the questions are turned into adversaries who are dismissed through being characterised as offensive and overcritical, too ready to alter, prohibit or abolish everything that they themselves do not

like. As librarian, public servant and employee of the public sector all this becomes really problematic.

Openness and involving citizens

Is democracy without openness even conceivable? Can intrinsic values such as equality, freedom and justice even be discussed in a relevant way without openness?

I believe that openness in this context implies the following: an opening up of public activities and resources so that citizens and political representatives obtain an insight into and the scope to assert influence or effect change where these are concerned; to always ensure that public services are focused on involving citizens and satisfying their interests; to communicate an optimal basis for decision-making to the decision-makers and the citizens themselves. In relation to the racism debates, we have fallen far short in these respects. We have much to learn.

Nick Jones
Head of Arts and Library Service,
Huddinge Municipality

Freedom of speech in the internet era:

Transparency and redefining boundaries



Photo: CCO

In the last decades, international comparative studies have indicated that Finland has become known as the country with the least amount of corruption and relatively extensive freedom of speech. The transparency that began in the 1900s has been reinforced through political and administrative factors and through the internet as a new form of communication. At the same time, developments in the internet era have led to the redefinition of the boundaries of freedom of speech and to new facets of conflict.

The conditions for and boundaries of freedom of speech in Finland have been strongly defined by social development in each era of time. Drafted during the reign of Sweden in the 1700s, Finland's *Act on freedom of writing and publishing* (1766) was an early milestone in the freedom of speech and one of the first such laws in the world to be passed.

Despite legislation, political power relationships and aspirations have had a central role in the implementation of freedom of speech up until the 1990s. For

example, criticism by those in power, nationalists, left-wing extremists and right-wing extremists have been seen as posing threats to freedom of speech.

According to international comparisons, the status of freedom of speech is excellent. However, critical arguments pertaining to the impact of social control and social networks on the actual realization of freedom of speech have been presented.

For example, the freedom of speech experienced in the field of media is contradictory; although freedom of speech is

generally seen as having expanded, one fourth of journalists (2014) admit that they have not written an article for fear of the consequences, and chief editors of regional newspapers admit to adjusting their actions to some extent to meet the aspirations of external stakeholders.

Transparency

The availability of administrative and legislative information has created an important foundation for a more transparent culture of publicity. Since the 1990s, the

administrative transparency and civil influence have been supported through legislation, projects and programmes.

The revised *Constitution of Finland*, the *Act on Openness of Government Activities*, *Administrative Procedure Act* and the *Local Government Act*, especially, have supported the structures of transparency and participation. Proposals and discussions during Parliament sessions have been available online since the mid-1990s.

Citizen participation

Citizen participation was included in the Government Policy Programme (2003-2007) and the policies were further affirmed in the government resolution to expand democracy (2010). In 2013, Finland joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) program, whereby the government is committed to openness, sim-

plification of administrative language, opening the administrative information pool and increasing opportunities for citizens to engage in participation.

In the 2000s, investments were also made in services to promote citizen participation. The Parliament's Committee for the Future launched experiments in civic participation, such as crowdsourcing. Government projects and bills were introduced for discussion in the *Ota kantaa* ("take a stance") service maintained by the ministries.

The Electronic Citizens' Initiative (2012), residents' initiative (2013) and the Ministry of Justice's online commenting service (2014) with background information services ("democracy database") expanded citizens' local and national participation.

Freedom of speech online

The internet has changed the procedures and boundaries for limiting freedom of speech. The development of censorship has most generally progressed from the utopia of the free network (end of the 1990s) to the development of monitoring and censorship mechanisms, at the same time that regulation has increased (2000s). By the end of the first decade of the 2000s, censorship had become a globally accepted practice. A central phenomenon of the 2010s has been the activation of internet users in defending their rights online.

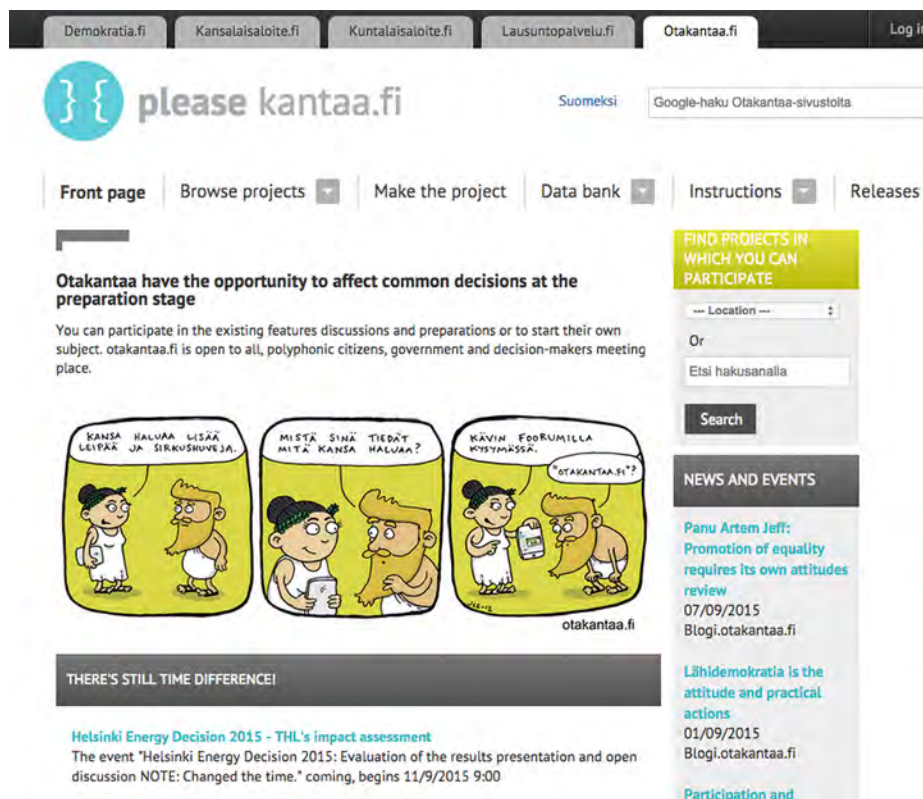
The overall trajectory of the development of online censorship is also reflected in public discussion in Finland, if considering news articles pertaining to freedom of speech in the *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper (1995-2015). In the 1990s, the internet was seen as a forum for free communication. There were expectations concerning self-regulation, censorship was presumed impossible and it was predicted that the internet would bring democracy to dictatorships.

Adapting to the internet

The 2000s has seen the emerging of a redefining of the boundaries and concepts of freedom of speech and censorship and monitoring practices. When revising the *Act on the Exercise of Freedom of Expression* in Mass Media, issues such as the internet as a medium, the concept of online publication, limitations adapted for the internet, monitoring and parties responsible for the limitations were considered.

Monitoring procedures became one of the themes. The data retention bill raised considerations about privacy and data protection as well as so called *Lex Nokia* bill, which pertains to monitoring communication at workplaces.

The 2010s has been characterized by extensive data leakages and conflicts pertaining to power and monitoring on the internet. The Snowden and Wikileaks infor-



The Ota kantaa ("take a stance") service maintained by the ministries. www.otakantaa.fi/fi-FI



Photo: COO

mation leakages were reflected in the process of preparing the Finnish cyber intelligence law.

The 2006 uproar about the Muhammed illustrations and the illustrations in Finland by Ville Ranta concerning the issue demonstrated how internet media crises can spread quickly and globally. Hate speech and racism had been a topic in public discussion earlier. The EFFI civic organization, in particular, functioned as the voice for civic organizations, but issues pertaining to freedom of speech were also on the agendas of several political parties.

“The internet seems to have a two-way impact: On one hand, it has opened up new space for public discussion and offered opportunities for global networking. The course of development is evident, for example, in the reflection of freedom of speech conflicts on local interpretations. On the other hand, as network development has progressed further, regulation and limitations have increased.

Conclusions

The developmental trajectory of freedom of speech in Finland in the last decades implies that the status of freedom of speech is the sum of many factors. Legislation has functioned as an essential enabler and creator of a culture of transparency. The limitations of freedom of speech which have been central throughout history – religious, political and propriety related limitations on freedom of speech – have changed shape in the last decades. The religious collision course has shifted to involve Islam and the secular society. The internationally strained political situation creates

new, sensitive questions. Pressure for social control and the impact of networking are further reflected in how people experience the status of freedom of speech. Freedom of speech disputes related to sexuality were chiefly associated with child protection.

The internet as services and space has also required the redefining of the boundaries and concepts of freedom of speech, which is made evident by copyright disputes, the concept of publication and editorial responsibility. Likewise, different practices limiting freedom of speech, such as limiting the possibility to write anonymously and monitoring network communication, have increased; most of the primary media sites in Finland require registration to be able to make comments.

Päivikki Karhula
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Turning our public libraries into venues for political debate?



Mariann Schjeide

Many library managers felt uncertain about this new role, often because they were wary of transgressing as employees of the municipal council. Were they at liberty to organise meetings and debates even if the Council's chief administrative officer voiced opposition to the events? What about the mayor and other councillors? Would there be a loyalty conflict?

An early survey clearly showed that many library managers intended to liaise with the chief administrative officer and the mayor whatever the situation, while others would do so if they were in doubt. Some preferred not to organise events at all because they felt this would be inappropriate for a municipal library.

Wait-and-see attitude

Librarians tend not to be among the most attention-seeking, high-profile and confrontational of people, which may go some way towards explaining library managers' initial somewhat servile position on the new objects clause. Most of them probably adopted a wait-and-see attitude,

and what they were waiting for was generally to see what the large inner-city libraries would do.

The large city libraries were naturally the first to try out their new role. This is not surprising, as you need more than a single member of staff to organise this sort of event! Whenever we try something new, it is important to have sparring partners to test out our ideas with. This is particularly important if we are also anxious about making a wrong move.

A few pioneering libraries have indeed been trailblazers and shining beacons for recommended practice: not necessarily with respect to choice of topics, but the way in which library managers may adjust to the editor's role.

Questions were asked

In Stavanger, Kristiansand and Oslo we saw debates that triggered strong reactions. In Kristiansand, the library manager rejected an application from the SIAN association (Stop Islamisation of Norway) to hold a 'public meeting' in the library. It

falls within the remit of an editor to turn things down. Of course, any rejection will need to be well founded.

The Kristiansand library manager turned down the application because SIAN refused to accommodate debate and accept input from people with opposing views. The most high-profile events have been held in Stavanger and Oslo, where the topics for debate included xenophobia, racism and nazism.

The media carried numerous discussions in the wake of these events and there were objections, rage and fury, as well as cheering from supporters. Protesters asked questions like: Are libraries not supposed to be racism-free zones? How will non-ethnic Norwegians respond to having discussions of this nature in their public library? Should library managers not take a stand and refuse to accommodate this sort of thing under their own roofs?

Article 100 of the Norwegian Constitution

Freedom of speech is a well established liberty, it is even safeguarded by the Nor-

Norwegian public libraries find themselves in an entirely new and unfamiliar situation now that the Norwegian Library Act has had its objects clause amended. Norwegian public libraries are now meant to be “impartial meeting places and venues for talks and public debate”. Library managers must take the initiative and accept the role of editor by accommodating debate and discussion about issues large and small under the roof of their libraries.

wegian Constitution. It is easy to support freedom of speech – in principle. But we often find that our support for freedom of speech comes easiest when we agree with what is being said.

If the ideas conveyed make us feel uncomfortable and the opinions voiced provoke our disgust and repugnance because they conflict with everything we stand for, then freedom of speech is no longer such a well supported concept. In that situation, past defenders of the principle of freedom of speech can often be found amongst the protesters.

Freedom of speech is absolute

One example: The Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks had arranged to give a talk at Oslo Public Library about Dan Park, a controversial Swedish street artist. Park had caused uproar on a number of earlier occasions due to his controversial style and his open flirtation with racism and violence. Many protested in advance of the talk, demonstrated outside the library during the talk, and wrote letters to the newspapers in the aftermath of the talk.

Student librarians in Oslo were among those furious at the thought of Oslo Public Library opening its doors to Lars Vilks and his talk. And this is where I feel the crux of the matter lies: I might very well have been amongst the demonstrators outside the library protesting against the content of Vilks’ talk. I am also of the opinion that Dan Park’s ‘art’ is provocative and ugly. I would not even call it art.

However, I would NOT have been able to protest against Oslo Public Library being the venue for such a talk. In my view, the library and its manager, Kristin Danielsen, were right to allow the talk to go ahead. Freedom of speech cannot be a relative liberty – it must be absolute. As long as the ideas and views communicated constitute no infringement of Norwegian law, I cannot in principle see a problem with libraries housing such debates. However, no newspaper editor publishes every letter received; he or she makes a selection and strikes a balance.

Will every library have its own visiting nazi? No, of course not. The big debates staged at the big libraries attracted attention and became the topic of discussion the length and breadth of the land. At the same time, a part-time library manager in the back of beyond may have been asking how she could possibly match this. But she was never intended to!

Engage People

In my view, the intention behind the new objects clause is for our libraries to engage with local issues that enthuse and concern local residents. The racism debate is important, but may well not be the most pressing issue for local people in small-town Norway. The issues they feel strongly about are school closures, the building of new nursing homes, the introduction of new street names, grazing rights, hunting and fishing, the building of a new bridge/tunnel/road.

This is how we engage with people on their home turf. This is how we take people’s everyday concerns seriously, by showing that we reflect the matters that are important to them. And we need to remember that even though public libraries are owned and run by municipal councils, they are nevertheless considered impartial venues by their users.

Good library practice

In my view, and I speak as a former library manager in a medium-sized Norwegian town, this is all about focusing on matters that are particular to the region concerned. My point is that organising local debates need not be made overly complicated, and that we may well be closer to fulfilling the legislators’ intentions if we concentrate on local issues.

A large number of public meetings and debates have been staged in Norwegian libraries around the country, but these events have been neither controversial nor ‘sexy’ enough for the media to consider them newsworthy. However, this is what amounts to good library practice and successful implementation of the new objects clause!

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Libraries are participants in an open society

The significance of libraries in society is growing and their visibility is increasing. Above all, libraries are major participants in UN and, especially, UNESCO discussions, forming viewpoints pertaining to copyright and freedom of speech issues. The increase in significance is also yielding increased publicity for libraries, which can also be a negative thing.



Tuula Haavisto

In Finland, the latest incident, which provoked discussion, was the memorial exhibition organized in a Helsinki library for the *Charlie Hebdo* satirical weekly magazine employees who died in the terrorist attack in the spring of 2015. The Finnish Comics Society compiled the exhibition from a few illustrations in *Charlie Hebdo*'s own magazines and from works produced for the exhibition by Finnish comic artists.

Admittedly, the exhibition included contentious material, but it was deliberately placed in a location where visitors would not bump into it by accident. The general impression was sincere, not provocative.

Scattered threats

Regardless, the exhibition aroused conflicting feelings. The Muslim community was in an uproar. In other feedback by the public, the idea to house the exhibition in a library was condemned due to the threat of an attack.

The library personnel also discussed the issue, but it subsided when the library's troika of directors stood on duty guarding the exhibition. Although there were some

scattered threats, luckily they were not carried out. A planned demonstration by Muslims would in fact have been welcomed because it would have vented the resentment in an approved way.

The exhibition resulted in a meeting between library executives and leaders of the Islam community. Our understanding of the relationship between freedom of expression and responsibility was substantiated when the leaders of the mosques explained how they must bridge together the viewpoints of their believers and those of our secular society.

On the other hand, the representatives of the library were able to assure them that, for example, the children of Muslim families would not be able to see the exhibition by chance. Mutual communication was deemed necessary and insight is needed on both sides.

Freedom of speech was also challenged at the Jyväskylä City Library in January, 2013. A publishing company had reserved space in the library to put up an exhibition depicting its new release about Finnish right-wing extremism. Local right-wing

extremists attacked the exhibition and stabbed the attendant. The attackers were subsequently sentenced for their actions.

The incident was proof that libraries can be considered almost sacred places for Finns – infringing upon their peace aroused powerful feelings, which could be seen in discussions in social media and in the numerous editorials in newspapers.

Change in the spirit of discussion

Discussion within the Finnish library community after the incidents in Jyväskylä and Helsinki has been encouraging. The events were covered extensively in field-related meetings and online discussions especially in 2013. The discussions supported the right of the library and its patrons to display any legally published work or trend of ideas on the library premises.

In Helsinki, the *Charlie Hebdo* uproar coincided with the library's strategy work and revising of the library's values. We obtained real-life examples for discussions with personnel. The conclusions of these discussions were clear: freedom of speech

is a primary value. Safety must be ensured, but you cannot hide behind it and shirk your responsibility to society.

These two concrete incidents actually signify a turn in the spirit of discussion in Finnish libraries. Previously, it was marked by pronounced societal neutrality, to the extent of being odourless and tasteless.

Ideal of neutrality

In 2010, when libraries were summoned to take part in the *Discrimination-free Zone* campaign, funded by the Ministry of the Interior and the EU, only a few responded to the challenge. Libraries did not feel it concerned them, which indicates how neutral libraries consider themselves. Some libraries ignored the challenge intentionally, perhaps due to the ideal of neutrality and diffidence.

Neutrality and pursuit of safety are not just a Finnish phenomenon. For example, I remember the discussions at the 2012 IFLA conference, which were marked by a spirit of avoidance to openly support freedom of speech. I believe this calls for action. Sticking to a purely professional attitude marginalizes libraries in a situation where they could increase their influence by supporting freedom of speech and democracy.

The defence of freedom of speech by libraries is heavily characterized by locality, since libraries are physical locations. Indeed, this challenges libraries to consider their own individual role. Balancing openness and the safety of patrons and personnel is essential. One can influence one's own safety.

Safety must be ensured

In Finnish municipalities, safety is being actively addressed nowadays, i.e. there are risk management and contingency plans. I personally feel an aversion to excessive pursuit of safety, shielding and controlling, but we should be proactive in issues such as these. Preparedness is a way to guarantee the openness of the library.

In the Jyväskylä incident described above, the library personnel reacted in an exemplary manner. They had practiced dealing with crisis situations, and when they were faced with a real crisis situation they knew how to act calmly and properly.



In Helsinki about 250 people wrote condolences for the victims of the Charlie Hebdo satirical newspaper. Photo: Tony Öhberg for Finland Today (<http://www.finlandtoday.fi>)

For example, the library attendant turned the security cameras towards the doors to the hall when an intimidating-looking group entered. Later, the videos were used as evidence in the court hearings. I surmise that being prepared in advance prevented excessive commotion as a result of the incident. Something like that easily leads to overwhelming fear, which is presumably the intention of provocateurs.

Freedom and responsibility

The experiences during my career and the discussions in IFLA's Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) since the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten's* Muhammed caricature in 2005 have increasingly prompted me to consider the relationship between freedom of speech and responsibility. I support freedom of speech in the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine,

though its teenage provocativeness is of no resonance to me.

At the same time, I would like the library's general message to its patrons to be closer to Nelson Mandela's pertinent reminder that along with freedom comes responsibility towards others. The library, for its part, should influence the social climate towards increasing freedom of expression, tolerance and genuine communication between different groups of people.

Mandela's citation: kortlink.dk/haea
"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Tuula Haavisto
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This is how the Helsinki City Library responded to the media and community concerning the Charlie Hebdo memorial exhibition in the spring when a demonstration was planned against the library and the exhibition:

1. The library is an institution that implements freedom of speech and considers the "I am Charlie" memorial exhibition a significant statement on the limitations of freedom of speech. The content of the exhibition is sorrowful, not provocative. Its message is that the pen and words are, in the end, more powerful than bullets.
2. Demonstrations are a legal way to express a difference of opinion.
3. We prefer to believe that violence would not be used against a library in this country. In the event that something like that should occur, the library has been in contact with the police and other security professionals.

The new independent Debate Libraries of Norway



From an open debate 2014 at Deichmanske Library, Oslo, about the library's new role after the 'debate clause' was introduced.

Both Swedish and Norwegian library laws were revised last year and included new, radical formulations that promote democracy through debate and exchange of opinions in the library. In Norway the chief librarian has even been given the status of an independent editor of debates, in line with newspaper editors.



Anders Ericson

Swedish libraries are now supposed to “promote the democratic development of the society by contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and freedom of opinion”. The amendment to Paragraph 1 of the *Norwegian Library Act* reads: “The public libraries should serve as an independent meeting place and forum for public dialogue and debate” (my translations).

It came as a surprise, except to the Norwegian Library Association, that in the public consultation relating to the Act it was suggested to add the word “independent”. There have of course been debates in libraries previously, but few or no Norwegian libraries have had promotion of social development through debate as an objective.

The chief librarian as editor

Norway’s Minister of Culture confirmed that: “The chief librarians themselves choose and prioritise how they will achieve the goals of the new mission statement [...] the manager should be free to plan activities at a public library. The library management [...] will assume the role of an editor.” She also says: “I think it is important that the library addresses topics that engage citizens locally, to retain its relevance”.

Naturally there was a certain uneasiness around this. Would the chief librarian still be overridden by the city council? Do librarians have the requisite skills and atti-

tude? However, several libraries have now taken the plunge and are organising debates.

They are experimenting and gaining experience, and doing it so well that the chairman of Norwegian PEN has stated that the library has come a long way in a short time in terms of its own debate profile. And mayors have publicly approved the new independent position of the chief librarian.

Government support

The National Library now provides substantial funding to local and regional projects to develop libraries as venues for debate.

Many debates are on local issues, such as municipal planning, road projects and the environment. Some concern national issues, such as Norway’s future when the oil stops flowing. A government plan for large-scale consolidation of municipalities is another hot topic. Even global issues such as the climate crisis are on the agenda.

Some libraries collaborate with NGOs on meeting series. Others just make assembly rooms available to external debate organisers. In some districts smaller libraries join forces, often with the help of county libraries.

The Houses of Literature

“Houses of Literature” have been established in some large and medium-sized cities in recent years, with or without mu-

nicipal contributions. Donors and literary communities have typically taken the initiative, but even libraries, such as Stormen public library in Bodø, have taken a lead. The first House of Literature in Oslo in 2007 was inspired by a similar German concept, which includes debates as a key component.

In some cities there is a degree of rivalry between the two institutions, and the new paragraph in the Act probably reflects the sympathy of national politicians towards the library.

Debate libraries must be able to deal with conflict. The Stavanger public library invited an open racist to participate in a debate on the person’s own conduct. Some of those invited to participate abstained but others lined up, from both sides, and the local press reported it as an interesting event.

Complies with IFLA statement

In using the term “independent” the Norwegian Act is probably the only one to comply with the IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom: “Librarians and other professional libraries staff shall fulfil their responsibilities both to their employer and to their users. In cases of conflict between those responsibilities, the duty towards the user shall take precedence”.

Whether or not it is enshrined in law, in my opinion any library should be free to organise controversial debates, even de-



Meet your local politicians. Election campaign meeting at Majorstua library in Oslo.



bates on public demands opposed by the authorities or politicians – and then respond to any reprimand with reference to the IFLA statement.

Long before the legislative revision, the public library in Lillehammer held large public meetings on urban development, for example regarding the railway versus a new highway. The chief librarian reported that “some politicians and administrators were annoyed, but most people appreciated it.”

Research centre of the people

In my opinion there is a further potential in the new paragraph, especially when it comes to self-publishing and dissemination of information. Even here the reference in the act to independence and the need for editors should be relevant.

A few years ago many libraries maintained topic lists on their websites, but today even librarians seem to believe that Google has reached a level where the library can relax in relation to the internet. You find very few services such as ‘Global Surveillance’, maintained by the University Library of Oslo, a collection of annotated links on surveillance with an emphasis on Wikileaks and Edward Snowden.

In 1989 the Swedish author Sven Lindqvist wrote an article in this journal (SPLQ #3, 1989, recently republished with the author's permission on my blog), launching the idea of the public library as

the “research centre of the people”: “Libraries should become popular research centers which not only supply sources of information, but also produce the basic data one needs to express one’s opinions on different issues.”

Contribute to democracy

My own contribution to this was the concept *The Library Takes up the Case* (*Biblioteket tar saka*). In this context I was given the assignment by a library to create a portal with information and documents about a controversial civilian airport, as the local press and local authorities did a poor job of keeping the public informed.

This autumn I have been assigned the task by a network of libraries to create a web portal on the consolidation of municipalities.

A related variant is Monroeville Public Library, Pennsylvania, USA, that always has two ‘Hot Topics’ on top of their website, presenting quality web resources on really controversial issues.

With such focused services, libraries and networks of libraries should be able to play an enhanced part in current debates within and outside the local communities and thus contribute to democracy and public participation.

Text and photo: Anders Ericson
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Questions at the meeting on Deichmanske: Which debates should the library take? Is there any debates libraries should say no to? Who determines the content?

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and eyes looking intently at a magazine she is holding. The magazine cover is red and white, with the title 'Scandinavian Library Quarterly' and a green map of Scandinavia. The woman's face is partially obscured by the magazine.

Scandinavian Library Quarterly

Help us evaluate SLQ

We want to know what you think about SLQ.

Therefore we have made a survey and we hope that you want to participate and contribute with your answers.

The questionnaire is web based and you can find it here:
<http://survey.kb.se/Survey/62>

You can also find a direct link to the survey on our web page slq.nu.





Creating a library for children



Helena Bergendahl

It was in 2009 that, for the very first time, I came to Georgia, the little country that lies between the Greater and Lesser Caucasus on the Black Sea coast. The author Marie Oskarsson and I were both members of our respective boards – in my case for Svenska Tecknare (Association of Swedish Illustrators and Graphic Designers) and, in Marie’s case, for the Children and Youth section of the Swedish Writers’ Union.

We were asked by the Swedish Institute (SI) if we wanted to carry on a cultural exchange between Swedish and Georgian writers and illustrators. Since then I have been to Georgia no less than eight times.

The first time we went there, in 2009, the country was still marked by the war with Russia of 2008; it was possible to feel the strained atmosphere then – all construction projects were at a standstill, the unemployment was tangible.

Our mandate from SI was to create enduring creative relations between Georgian and Swedish writers and illustrators, as a form of cultural support. We decided to carry out a workshop which was inaugurated with an open grand seminar on children’s literature in August 2009.

We then had a few months before we went again to seek out workshop partici-

pants. Three authors and three illustrators from Georgia, and the same number from Sweden, were chosen to work together in groups of three in each case. The intention was to make it really hard and complicated (!) and for there to be a great many discussions. We described it jokingly as “high-altitude training for children’s book creators”.

Enormous demand

In the days before the introductory seminar we saw – to our surprise – how the registration list became longer and longer. There seemed to be an enormous, pent-up demand for a seminar on children’s literature. We had to dedicate one day more or less to acquiring and borrowing all the chairs so as to fit in the more than one hundred attendees who had signed up. A

press conference attracted four TV companies. We were overwhelmed!

The twelve selected workshop participants travelled the following day to Batumi on the Black Sea coast for a workshop lasting several days. This was then continued the following year at Biskops-Arnö in the Stockholm archipelago with further work, and study visits to Stockholm.

One year later, one of the book projects had been published, two were under way and a further book project had been initiated. Several of the Swedish participants travelled back to Georgia on their own account.

Long-term inspiration

The children’s book author, Kajsa Gordan and the illustrator Anna Höglund were teaching at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Sweden. This, in its turn, resulted in a group of students starting the arts group Virgam for the publishing of alternative children’s books. The largest children’s book company in Tbilisi (Georgia) decided to publish some of these books.

This was perhaps the most inspiring thing of all – that we could observe the widening rings on the water. People met

together and were inspired with solid, long-term results as a consequence. Even the Swedish Institute was satisfied and asked us if we wished to take on a further project, a children's library project.

Creating a modern children's library

The background was that the Swedish Institute had contributed to – and took steps to starting – children's library activities, both in Moldavia and in Belarus. It was not about building a library or indeed running it. Instead, it involved initiating, training, finding out where the children were and what their needs were. Where construction work was an issue, then this might involve helping with sponsors and requests for support, but always leaving the building work and running of the library to be carried out locally.

In a nutshell, this was a modern children's library project! We accepted the challenge but with some trepidation. This has been rather different to a conventional cultural exchange, where we ourselves were the professionals. At the same time, we acquired both experience and a contact network.

We made a preliminary study trip in 2010 in order to visit all kinds of libraries, to meet the relevant authorities and investigate whether there was interest in our project. The response was definitely affirmative, even if it was a complex task to state precisely what we wanted to do. In a culture where it is well-established practice that those who finance something also decide everything about it, it was rather hard to understand that someone from another country wished to be involved and to develop something specifically Georgian.

Not a Swedish, but Georgian library

Everyone thought we wished to build a Swedish children's library, but what we wanted was to find out how a modern Georgian children's library could look and operate. This work too started with a seminar. And once again, there were hundreds who registered an interest in attending!

The work of helping in the professional development of children's librarians in

Georgia ranks as one of the most satisfying things I have been involved in. These are women, many of a somewhat older age, very low paid yet all are devoted to their occupation.

Without digital equipment, they ensure that the stock of books is widely shared. It also happens that they buy books themselves in order to loan them out. Moreover, this occupation is affected by the oldest, tiredest prejudice: that it is the older, uglier, unmarried women who are librarians!

When, last year, we handed over the project to an architect's office that had more experience of leading building projects, we could add three seminars, two workshops and two study trips to Stockholm, one for librarians and one for the relevant authorities.

The importance of shared community

This was a complicated process; all the contacts we had created were nullified several times for political reasons. Following an election in Georgia our contacts were replaced, also the civil servants. Where Georgia's democratic development is concerned, it remains promising with several elections having taken place without violence and there are ongoing attempts to fight corruption.

I became curious and wished to know more – our task, after all, was to support democratic development. Democracy, after all, is more than merely casting a vote. But what is it really?

I learned that the most important thing – if one is to believe in our shared community – is that the social institutions really function; this means the health service, the police and fire service, for example. Also, that the political parties operate with their members and ideologies. That corruption is fought. But let's not forget; the library is the first place where children make their own independent choices in the community and it is indeed here that the development of democracy starts.

The librarians are not teachers and parents; they are not there to educate or to teach; they are there to take the choices of children seriously. It is essential that, as a child, one can borrow any book without

needing an adult to unlock a cupboard where the books are stored. Such was the case often in the children's libraries we visited in Georgia.

Where are the children?

After one trip I came back to Gothenburg and saw the city with new eyes. In Georgia, we had asked everyone we met – where are the children? What are the children doing after school? Where should the library be so that the children can find the way there? But where are the children in Gothenburg?

During 2013, we took the Georgians on a study visit to meet the staff of the Göteborg City Library to find out what conclusions they had drawn from being evacuated and relocated while the large library at Götaplatsen was undergoing a complete refurbishment. In this case, active use was made of the temporary location to test different furnishing solutions and city locations.

This has resulted in a library of 300 square meters, close to the city's iconic Central Station, which was originally a stand-in now becoming an ordinary library for the city. We learned that it is easy to get fixated on building prestige projects that fail to accord with how the visitors wish to use the library.

I have learned a great deal about Georgia and Sweden and the library in the course of this work and now indeed bemoan, just a little, the fact that I no longer have a project under way and a reason to travel there. Maybe this is an opportunity to work out something new? Cartoon strips as a political voice?

Text and photo:
Helena Bergendahl
Illustrator

Helena Bergendahl is an illustrator and member of the board of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) in Sweden as well as jury member for the Biennial of Illustrations (competition and exhibition of original illustrations of children's and youth literature) in Bratislava 2015.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Game COLLECTORS

Part of KB's collection of computer games. What will happen to our games in a hundred years, and who will care about a game like *Candy Crush* in two years?

The vast majority of silent films are lost, because at the time they were popular they were seen as disposable entertainment and were often recycled or thrown away after they had been shown. Today most people would probably agree that this is a loss of our cultural heritage. Now, the same thing is about to happen with computer games.



Annika Hjerpe

You might think that computer games are a small part of our culture, and you may ask yourself if they are worth collecting and preserving. If so, then ponder that in 2010 the game *World of Warcraft* reached a peak of 12 million users, although it has lost a little popularity since then and will probably soon be replaced as number one by some other virtual world. And take into consideration that up until now, nearly 19 million people have bought the Swedish game *Minecraft*, but this figure is a few months old.

The National Library of Sweden collects, preserves and makes accessible computer games with a Swedish connection. Games published in 50 copies or more, also imported games, must be submitted to the National Library, in accordance with the *Legal Deposit Act*.

Risk losing cultural heritage

In 2015, the *Legal Deposit Act for Electronic Materials* came into effect. However, online games, game apps and downloaded games are not covered by this law, which means that a large part of our cultural heritage might be lost forever.

To avoid this, the National Library has initiated a project addressed to game developers, asking them to voluntarily donate digitally distributed games. These games will not be made available to the public, only to researchers. However, it has been difficult to get developers to cooperate.

“Yes, it has been difficult; when we have sent out e-mails we haven’t received any replies, but if we make personal contact, for example when we meet game developers at trade fairs and such, then it works better,” says David Brodin, archivist, who

works with games at the National Library of Sweden (KB).

His colleague, Bengt-Olof Ågetoft, explains that a lot of people have a vague idea of what KB is.

“And not many people know that we have games,” says David Brodin.

“Perhaps we should market that we have them,” says Camilla Johansson, who also works with games at KB.

“Right now we focus on preserving them, but making them accessible is also an important part of what we do,” says David Brodin.

Directly on the internet

KB has been collecting and preserving games and other multimedia since 1995. The collection contains around 6,000 items, but since one game can be made for different consoles they are not all unique.

In the 1990s and early 2000s educational programs, encyclopaedias, interactive stories or fairy tales and presentations were often published on CD-ROM, which is why this sort of material makes up a large part of the collection. “But this disappeared when broadband became broader,” says Bengt-Olof Ågetoft.

Nowadays such material is published directly on the internet and thus not covered by the Legal Deposits Act for Electronic Material. Therefore it is almost not collected at all any more.

But will it be possible to play these old computer games in the future, or look at educational programs from the 1990s on CD-ROM?

“We must be able to migrate and copy them for preservation because if their file formats become obsolete the risk that data is destroyed is great. Old CD-ROM discs

from the 1990s are already starting to decay. One company has allowed us to copy their discs because we contacted them and asked, but it is a huge task to contact every company,” says David Brodin.

May not copy computer games

According to Swedish copyright law, libraries and archives have the right to produce copies of works, but this does not apply to computer programs. This means that libraries in Sweden can only show computer games if they use the original copies and the original game consoles.

From a preservation point of view, it would be logical if it was allowed to make copies of the originals before making them accessible to researchers. This is possible with other types of materials and in Denmark, for example, the law makes an exception for libraries, archives and museums so that they may make copies of computer games for use on their premises.

“A few of yesterday’s games, for example some of the ones from 1995, can’t be played anymore. This is partly because we don’t have the operating system and partly because game consoles don’t last forever,” says Bengt-Olof Ågetoft.

Not all national libraries collect computer games, but many do and David Brodin has been thinking a lot about contacting other national libraries. “Because we have the same problems but solve them differently. We are planning to contact Finland, from what I understand our copyright laws are quite similar,” he says.

“We have had some contact with Denmark,” Bengt-Olof Ågetoft adds.

A few projects

In their mission to save the culture of



David Brodin: To collect computer games with a Swedish connection is part of KB's instructions. For a computer game to have a Swedish connection it needs to either have Swedish speech, Swedish text, Swedish participants or originators, or a case that is targeted at the Swedish market.



A few times a year, researchers come here and want to research games and other multimedia, but we expect a whole lot more in the coming decades, says Bengt-Olof Ågetoft, here with Camilla Johansson.

computer games from being destroyed and to collect them for future generations to see and study, the game group at KB has started a few projects, all on a very small scale. Besides contacting game developers and asking them to voluntarily donate games, they have started to download free online games.

They also try to emulate some games; however the Swedish law does not allow showing emulated computer games, and they are filming games as they are being played.

“We have a project where we film games that are hard to preserve, for example the game app *Ingress*, which is actually only a map with GPS and different portals that the players find through their mobile phones,” says David Brodin.

He explains that there is a type of narrative that can be found on different web pages connected to this game, and that different events and meetings are arranged.

The players have their own community and this type of game is difficult to collect and preserve for the future. “Since we have downloaded the films on the game’s YouTube channel we can preserve all the surrounding aspects that are important in order to understand what this phenomenon was,” says David Brodin.

Collecting films

A lot of people film themselves while they play computer games and the game group at KB collects these films. Some people do it professionally, for example the YouTube channel PewDiePie. This is a Swedish guy who films himself as he plays through different games and makes a good living from it. His channel has 35 million subscribers all over the world.

That is more than the TV ratings for all the Swedish TV channels combined and everyone can probably understand that it is important to preserve TV channels. The

game group at KB thinks that some YouTube channels are just as important.

“We make a selection because there are very many of these films,” Camilla Johansson explains.

“The gaming culture is documenting itself all the time and we collect it. If we fail to preserve some games, at least we will have a film showing it being played,” David Brodin continues.

“But of course we want the game as well, so the film is only a complement,” Camilla Johansson adds.

Text and photo:

Annika Hjerpe

Press and Communication Officer

National Library of Sweden

FACTS

KB is now a member of the European Federation of Game Archives, Museums and Preservation Projects: www.efgamp.eu

MINECRAFT



Photo: Minecraft@Gamescom 2014

Made in Sweden

Minecraft is the world's most downloaded computer game ever. It is googled more often than the Bible and Harry Potter. Minecraft has over 40 million registered users and over 19 million have purchased the full version of the game. The Danish toy giant LEGO along with Warner Bros. and TT Games also build its own digital online play world in the style of Minecraft.

Minecraft is a sandbox construction. Gameplay involves players interacting with the game world by placing and breaking various types of blocks in a three-dimensional environment. In this environment, players can build creative structures, creations, and artwork on multiplayer servers and singleplayer worlds across multiple game modes.

The game is developed by the Swedish game developer Markus 'Notch' Persson and published first time in 2009. In 2014 Markus Persson sold the game for \$ 2.5 billion to Microsoft.

Minecraft at libraries

During spring 2015 Denmark General Housing Association, Danish Architecture Centre and children's website *Palles Gavebod* brought focus on democracy with a number of Minecraft workshops in Denmark's first online general residential 'Happiness Park', in the children's library Minecraft universe *Palle Land* and ten public libraries throughout the country. The purpose was to make visible and demystify the opportunities that local democracy offers young people from disadvantaged areas.

Minecraft is also a part of the Nordic Game Day and International Games Day. In 2014 there were 115 attending libraries in Denmark, 34 from Finland, 4 from Iceland, 35 from Norway and 12 from Sweden.

The Nordic event is supported by the Nordic Game Institute and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

/CPS



Dyslexia?

Welcome to our library

New Guidelines for Library Services to persons with Dyslexia



Helle Arendrup
Mortensen

Libraries are the best kept secret for people with reading difficulties, but like everyone else they have a right to information. They don't know what the library can offer. It takes courage to visit the library as a dyslexic, and why visit a library if you cannot read?

This article will provide examples of the implementation of the new *IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia* in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The guidelines can be used by professionals in the library world as a source of inspiration on how to recognize library users with dyslexia and other reading difficulties, how to approach them and how to improve library services accordingly.

The main recommendations of the new guidelines are to make a comprehensive plan, work together with stakeholders and, last but not least, make progress by taking one step at the time. The guidelines focus on public libraries; however many of the suggestions and recommendations may be useful for other kinds of libraries as well.

Denmark

Nota, the specialised library for print disabled in Denmark, collaborate with libraries to raise awareness of dyslexia and of library services to people with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. Below are two examples on how to implement the guidelines in the library services.

The Duo concept

Duo is a network for dyslexic students in secondary and higher education. Duo gives students the opportunity to meet others in the same situation and share knowledge and experiences of living reading difficulties. It also enhances the Duo students' knowledge and use of the library.

The project is a successful cross fertilisation between public libraries and Nota. It can hopefully become a permanent practice and thereby position libraries as a starting point for learning network. The project is implemented with support from Kulturstyrelsen, the Danish Agency for Culture.

Shared Reading

Shared Reading is a reading group activity in which everyone can participate. No preparation required small groups and a reading group leader, who reads aloud a

short story or an excerpt of a book and a poem and guides the participants' dialogue, if necessary. There are no wrong or correct answers. The purpose of the Shared Reading is to open the text and experience the literature.

In the autumn Nota will start two reading groups together with Aaby Public Library in Jutland. The reading groups are for young people with dyslexia aged 15-19 years, and hopefully they will help to ensure that young people become wiser on literature, develop their vocabulary and get new perspectives on their own lives and opinions through debates.

Sweden

The Swedish Library Association has decided to translate the guidelines. Afterwards the library consultants in the regional libraries will raise awareness of the guidelines through conferences and in network meetings.

Most public libraries develop library plans including accessibility and how to make webpages and written materials accessible and easy to read. In these plans there should be a section about how to reach people with dyslexia. This will raise awareness among library staff and increase activities around this group of users.

Norway

From April 2013 through October 2013 The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (NLB) carried out an information campaign targeted at the public libraries in Norway. The object of this campaign was to increase the libraries' awareness in terms of making literature and information available for all citizens and to contribute to making NLB better known among persons with a print disability.

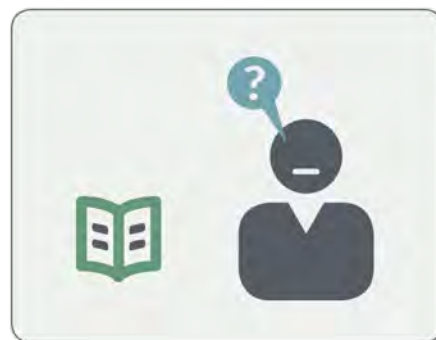
The campaign consisted of posters, travelling exhibitions and other material. Also the public libraries were encouraged to inform to their patrons and business partners about NLB.

All the counties in Norway and in total

55 percent of all local municipalities as well as 255 public libraries participated in the campaign. The hope is that this campaign has contributed to increase the awareness and knowledge about this target group.

More information on the guidelines

Hopefully the new guidelines and examples from Denmark, Sweden and Norway will inspire library staff around the world to make library services available to persons with dyslexia, and to raise awareness of the importance of doing so. Download the guidelines here: kortlink.dk/ifla/haps



Source: www.ifla.org/publications/50

The guidelines also provide a checklist of tips and ideas, an overview of best practises from several public and specialized libraries and a small knowledge base with a list of reliable and objective sources: kortlink.dk/ifla/hapt

Helle Arendrup Mortensen
Corresponding Member of Library Services
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DENMARK

HELP USERS HELP EACH OTHER

Nudging is a method where people are encouraged to choose the right solution by making it easy for them. As the public libraries of Roskilde, Vordingborg, Guldborgsund, Slagelse and Bornholm discovered, expensive or radical changes proved not to be necessary. The libraries wanted to make it possible for their users to help each other especially in the self-service libraries, or open libraries as they are called in Denmark. The aim was that a library visit would create value for another user.

Most of the budget was spent on consultant fees, but other than that, the shopping list was pretty practical and concrete: small red, yellow and green stickers, two meters of green fabric, a camera, some green paint, a few phrases written on Dymo-tape. All solutions were tested in three different libraries and the simple nudges seemed to have immediate effect.

The result: The number of false alarms from lending machines fell by a third and users started recommending books to each other when it was made easy enough. Users talk to each other more, they offer their help to one another whenever there is a problem. The self-service libraries are now more sociable places.

Source: Danmarks biblioteker 3/2015

LIBRARIES AS MUSIC HUBS

Since 2010, the lending of music CD's has decreased by 57 percent. The trend is the same in many countries, including Finland. Music libraries are facing a change which affects their role and requires both small adjustments and more radical modifications to their services.

The chief editor of Bibzoom, the Danish music website by and for libraries offering access to 25 million pieces of music, believes that libraries have every opportunity to play a central role also in the future dissemination of music but it requires co-operation.

The competition is fierce between global

digital music services such as Spotify, Tidal, Apple's Beats and YouTube's Music Key. Still, with more libraries subscribing to the joint service – which they in turn make available for their users – the cost per library would be lower, the amount of resources larger and an even better technical music solution would be possible.

If libraries would give the local music enthusiasts and professionals the opportunity to deliver content to the service, the libraries' combined information resources would really come into play on a common platform.

Another aspect of the role of music libraries is their status as information specialists on music and, of course, the physical space where online music can be made alive in the form of listening clubs, concerts and artist talks. This trend can be seen in e.g. Tampere in Finland where artists are more than willing to perform for a full house at the main library.

Source: Perspektiv 6/2015 and The Agency for Culture website

**LIBRARIES SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA**

Libraries are perceived to be mainly about books and reading. Where does that leave students with reading difficulties? Are their needs being catered for? The public libraries of Herning, Vejle, Gentofte, Odense, Copenhagen and Aarhus together with Nota, The Danish National Library for Print Disabled, are working on a project where libraries are seen as a central learning space for the target group.

The Duo is a national network for students with reading difficulties. The eponymous project will arrange workshops and seminars for and about dyslexic students giving an insight into the students' daily lives, of what dyslexia really means and an opportunity for two-way feedback between the target audience and the libraries.

Volunteer dyslexic students will be an integral part of the project and coaching will be used as a method. The experiences and results will be presented in a materials package made publicly available in 2016.

Source: The Agency for Culture project register

LIBRARIES IN THE DRAGONS' DEN

The Danish public libraries are collaborating with the national broadcasting company, Denmark's Radio (DR). The partners have chosen the theme Entrepreneurship and Innovation which will highlight the role of the libraries as promoters of innovation in society and their contribution to creativity.

The libraries will support and network with local entrepreneurs and people who are thinking of starting their own business. They will also arrange debates and workshops around inventions and innovations. This round of collaboration will include working with the Danish version of the BBC's Dragons' Den where entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to investors.

The participating libraries are able to share ideas and inspiration from and with other libraries on a portal. A package of materials including the shared logo, images, templates and video clips for use both online and on the premises are available for the libraries. Many public libraries have also been posting about the events on their Facebook profile.

Source: The Central Libraries website

FINLAND



UKULELES AND LIVE MUSIC

As in Denmark, loans of physical music recordings are declining in Finnish public libraries and librarians are re-thinking their specialist role.

In Tampere, the music library has visibly broadened the spectrum of their client work. Music enthusiasts have reason to be happy as the main library has acquired musical instruments the users can borrow: three ukuleles, an acoustic guitar and a djembe drum are the first items for loan. The lending period is two weeks and reservations can be placed.

If you don't want to take the ukulele home you can have a go in the sound-proof rehearsal rooms at the library. In addition, the library users can make their own music recordings as the library has also invested in a portable digital audio recorder which can be taken home overnight. The popular Metso LIVE concert series will be continued and the staff invite school classes for music talks, which are like book talks on music or musical trips around the world.

Source: Libraries.fi website

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOPS

A kick-off seminar for small libraries to improve their premises and services was arranged in December 2014. All participants committed to implementing at least one important change at their library by

the next meet-up, be it weeding of a certain section, better signage or a cosier corner for reading. The *Libraries Into Shape* project wanted to help the small libraries to find and share practical ideas and tools for incremental, everyday improvement.

After the first meeting, the participating twenty library systems worked on their assignments and met again several months later to compare notes. Three libraries were awarded with a small grant and all the ideas were gathered on the project blog.

In Pudasjärvi, for example, a big service desk was removed and replaced by a display case for films, and in Paimio some of the furniture and surfaces at the children's department were painted in bright colours. The small changes show how you don't always have to go the whole hog and renew everything at once, a little bit can sometimes go a long way.

Sources: Libraries.fi website and The Libraries Into Shape blog



BETTER SHAPE, BETTER SERVICE

The library staff at the universities of applied sciences was encouraged to take care of their physical wellbeing through the LibraryMOVE2015 exercise campaign. The campaign had a record attendance of 15 participating teams, 145 participants, with 9,434 hours and 92 different forms of exercise represented.

This year, great emphasis was placed on the joy of exercise, a sense of community and shared events organised by the different libraries.

The most popular forms of exercise were, as expected, walking, cycling, walking the dog and going to the gym. Some of the staff also did acrobatics and went geocaching. The winning team of the Arcada Library felt that the best part of the campaign was exercising together. "Our team spirit has improved" which is probably something the users will also experience as better service.

Source: Kreodi, the online journal of University of Applied Sciences Libraries

TOWARDS KOHA

The *Towards Koha* project of five provincial libraries is planning to establish an organisation which could take over the administration and development of the open source library system, Koha, in the participating libraries. Several of the libraries have already made the decision to implement Koha, and Joensuu City Library has been running the system since June 2014.

A consortium will be formed to guarantee smooth system maintenance, a couple of programmers hired and partners in the educational and research sector identified over the course of the project. The provincial libraries of Kouvola, Oulu, Rovaniemi, Turku and Mikkeli together cover an area with 1,5 million inhabitants of the total 5,2 million in the whole country.

Source: National register over library projects. Libraries.fi / Ministry of Education

NORWAY

GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

The offer of free coffee usually works well as bait in the Scandinavian countries. Three Norwegian university and college libraries have been offering a cuppa along with tips and advice on using the Citation Compass, a newly updated tool for source evaluation, reference styles and copyright issues available at Kildekompasset.no.

Source: Facebook pages of the university libraries of Agder and Stavanger and the Telemark University College

UNSAID ISSUES AT THE LIBRARY

Unsaid is a debate arena and workshop aimed at teenagers in the library, for, by and with the young themselves. The project organised by the Deichmanske public library in Oslo is supported by the National Library. "Cold water in the swimming pool? Too many beggars? Too much pressure at school? Is West better than East?" The topics are up to the panelists and the young audience themselves.

Sources: Facebook event for Unsaid and Deichmanske Library website

SAY YES TO LIBRARIES
ON NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

Norway celebrated the first National Library Day on August 26th this year. The day was established at the initiative of the Norwegian Library Association and aims to highlight all types of libraries in the country: academic, public, school and mobile libraries.

The first ever Library Day put the spotlight on the important social tasks libraries perform. The timing was apt as the municipal elections were held on September 14th. Several public libraries, e.g. at Våler, Kristiansand and Lørenskog, welcomed all the major parties to engage in a debate at the library.

Source: Norwegian Library Association website

THE BRAVE LIBRARY

Completely in line with the pronounced role of libraries as scenes for debate and stages for discussing differing points of view, the annual international festival for literature and freedom of expression *Kapittel, Chapter*, included a seminar on library policy in Stavanger in September.

The twenty-year-old festival has become an important literary arena both nationally and internationally. *Kapittel* is a dedicated platform for freedom of expression, a theme which runs through the whole program. It focuses on literary genres that usually don't get the most public attention. The theme for this year's library seminar was *The brave library*. Some of the questions covered were what it means for a library to be brave, how courage is partly about taking risks without always being sure of success and how libraries can best handle the challenges they are facing today.

Source: Seminar website for Det modige biblioteket - The brave library

SWEDEN

HAVE BOOKS WILL TRAVEL

Many commuters were happy to be able to borrow books on their way to or from work during the national library conference in Lund this year. The public library offered a pop-up library in the small pedestrian tunnel connecting the Lund Central Railway Station with the platforms.

The library got a lot of publicity, and the staff welcomed the chance to interact with users outside of the library building. The items borrowed could be returned to the local libraries. Even if there's been a decline in library visits, pop-up libraries might help increase book lending, the staff believe.

Source: Biblioteksbladet 5/2015

PICNIC STARTS AT THE LIBRARY

The library can be a part of everyday life as well as special occasions: now you can borrow a picnic basket at Gävle Public Library. The baskets come with an accompanying blanket and users are able to buy coffee from the library café, the biscuits you'll have to bring yourself.

There is a selection of books you're free to take with you – and keep, if you so wish – or return to the library the following day together with the basket. There is a lawn outside the library where you can sit and read and enjoy all the benefits the local library has to offer.

Source: Peter Alsbjerg's blog

RESEARCHERS AS READERS

Literature is good for you, even if your work is more of the academic variety. That is the idea behind the *Book Relay* programme where staff and students pick their favourite books and present them to others. Both Malmö and Linköping university libraries have tried out the programme developed at the Copenhagen University Library and the results are encouraging: after initial hesitation faculties have taken part.

Each new relay round begins with an opening where the twenty books are exhibited and briefly presented.



Poster: Free books – all day long



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The concept includes submitting the relay baton to the next reader, someone from another discipline. Even if the librarians behind the concept stress that reading fiction has value in itself, there are also other conceivable benefits. To be able to write well you need to be a fluent reader. It also seems that the critical thinking skills of students in humanities – where fiction has a more prominent role – are better than those of economics students. All the more reason to incorporate a Book Relay into the programme of any field of research.

Source: *Biblioteksbladet 4/2015*

STUDY ENVIRONMENT

The Malmö University Library conducted a user survey to find out how happy the students were with the study environment provided. 750 students responded to the questionnaire. The data and the open comments will be used to improve the services and the library will be looking especially at the possibility of more study places, the need for more quiet zones and clearer signage. Over 37 percent of the respondents wished for more public access computers.

Almost 80 percent of the students who took the survey borrowed books from the library, while around 70 percent also used the library for individual study – with the same amount of respondents using the library for working in groups.

Source: *Malmö University Library website*

... AND THE WINNER IS KISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Danish Agency for Culture has awarded the Kista Public Library in Stockholm with the prize and the title of Public Library of the Year 2015.

The award is a part of the *Danish Model Programme for Public Libraries* with IT company Systematic as sponsor and was established in 2014. This year, the Danish Agency for Culture cooperated with IFLA's Public Libraries section.

The recognition is awarded according to criteria set by the *Model Programme*. The awarded library must have been recently built from scratch or renovated in premises not originally built as a library. The aim of the international prize is to inspire good library design, both architecture and service design. The jury stated that the Kista Public Library, designed by Wester +

elsner Architects and located in a shopping centre in central Stockholm, is a sustainable project with playful architecture, flexible solutions and adaptable features.

The involvement of the Kista Public Library in social media and maker culture were some of the factors mentioned in the motivation of the jury, as well as the various partnerships and the focus on hiring staff with a wide range of expertise and language skills. The other four nominees were the Devonport Library in New Zealand, the Library at the Dock, Australia, the Narok Library, Kenya and the Sant Gervasi-Joan Maragall library, Spain.

Source:
The Danish Agency for Culture website



Photo: Kista Public Library

KEEP UP WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORDIC LIBRARIES IN SCANDINAVIAN LIBRARY QUARTERLY. WWW.SLQ.NU

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