Danish libraries on the Road to the Knowledge Society

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The Danish Library System

- Library types
  - School-libraries at every primary school
  - Public library in every municipality
  - 16 county libraries
  - 2 national libraries
  - University libraries and many special and academic libraries
  - Denmark’s Electronic Research Library
Denmark - a Nordic Kingdom

- 5.4 mio. inhabitants
- 486 GNP pr. capita
- kingdom for more than 1000 years
- parliamentary system since 1849
- homogenius population till recently
- from agriculture to industry to knowledge society

A few key figures: Public Libraries

- nearly 700 public libraries, p.l. mandatory
- in municipalities (in 2007 from 270 to 98 mun.)
- total budget 378 mio Euro
- per capita budget 70 Euro
- average loan per capita per year 14
- staff ap 4900
- 64% adult are public library users
- 81% of all children are public library users
Main principles

- Free and equal access to any published information
- for everybody, without any charge
- no matter what media the information be stored in*
- PL thr responsibility of municipal authorities
- National services organised by the state

* with an exception for film

University and research libraries: key figures

- nearly 180 research and special libraries:
  - 2 national libraries
  - 100 libraries of institutions of higher education
  - 78 special libraries
- staff ap 1570
- total budget 113 mio Euro
Cooperation among academic libraries

- Cooperation between national-, university, academic and special libraries is coordinated within *Deff*, the Danish electronic Research Library since 1998- giving e-access to research material and building shared services.

Central institutions and regulations

- Act on Library Services -since 1920
  - revised for info-society in 2000

- Danish National Library Authority
  - state-agency, government adv.

- Danish Bibliographic Center
  - organised as a ltd. co

- Royal School of library and information Science (BA,MA,PhD)
  - ranking no 1 in Europe
System and ideas

• bibliotek.dk – search and request any title in Danish libraries
• All libraries cooperate, ILL
• transportation system – day to day deliverance all over Denmark
• The hybrid library concept
• more and more virtual services, for instance lending of music-files from your home
• access to licensed e-journals and e-books
• ask-a-librarian on the internet

Major challenges 2006 - infrastructure

• Infrastructure: a national coherent system
  – DK-AAI - to handle licensed material
  – from library institutions to library network
  – shared services
  – to integrate the library service into everyday life
Challenges - to create new services

- In university libraries: the library as a function in the university e-frame
- In public libraries: e-access to digitized Danish material
- Merging of many different library e-services into one

Challenges - branding

- Library services cannot match Google, Amazon, iTunes and other services
- But the library access to structured information should be branded much better
Challenge - to create new physical library spaces

• Make libraries leave the book-deposit library-concept to create

• new spaces with focus on learning and the users’ needs
  – display of the new material,
  – exhibitions
  – events
  – learning activities
  – the librarian as consult