

Summaries

Poul Flou Pedersen: Ruslands folkebibliotekers historiske arv i 1990-ernes udfordringer (The Historical Heritage of Russia's Public Libraries in the challenges of the 1990s)

Page 7

The situation of Russia's public libraries in a difficult economic period of transition in the 1990's is described in this article from both historical and a social point of view.

The development of the library system in Russia can be viewed as a reflection of the society's self-perception. The first of the four main sections of the article shows the multifarious role which the State has ascribed to libraries in this century. Among these the State's control, the educational tradition, and the library-idea are described, from a Russian cultural-historical point of view.

The second main section of the article examines the library's legal foundation before and after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia's new library law of 1993 rests on a new foundation of values, namely on principles of freedom of opinion and free access to information for all.

The third main section addresses itself "the human factor" in the library system, including staff, users, and administration.

The last main section covers "tradition or renewal" - the future of libraries. In spite of all the material and structural troubles, the renewal lies in both placing the individual user in the centre of the system, and in further developing library technology.

The article ends with a comprehensive bibliography giving special emphasis to Russian sources.

Poul Flou Pedersen: Lovgrundlaget for Ruslands biblioteker (The Legal Foundation of the Russian Libraries)

Page 25

The article contains the first Danish translation of the Russian library law in force which was passed in 1993.

Poul Flou Pedersen: Kvindebiblioteket i Jekaterinburg (The Women's Library in Jekaterinburg)

Page 29

Today the public libraries in Russia are in a very difficult economic crisis which has led to a reduction in the numbers of and closing down of especially small library branches.

Under such circumstances the building and maintenance of the traditional library-ideal, the universal library, are difficult. A good survive-strategy has proved to be a specializing, in which the branch chooses a special profile.

The article describes "The Women's Library", which is established in a suburb of the big town Jekaterinburg. The traditional library conception is considerably enlarged, especially by attaching importance to the establishment of social networks and human contacts.

Erik Adrian: En god bog er også et lægemiddel. Biblioterapi i Rusland (A good book is medicine too. Bibliotherapy in Russia).

Page 33

The article reports and commentates on two recent articles in the russian periodical Biblioteka, one by T. Keller, another by O. Kabatjek. Both articles describes how bibliotherapy is finding it's way to public libraries these years in Russia. In Solikamsk one of the branch libraries has specialised in bibliotherapy. Kellers article refers to an experiment in 1997 with good results. Kabatjek refers to experiments in relation to children's libraries where bibliotherapy has been a help in integration of socially and psychologically handicapped children.

Jurij Nikolajevitsj Stoljarov: Vor videnskab har sine særlige funktioner (Our branch of knowledge has some special functions). (Translated by Erik Adrian by permission of the author from "U naszej nauki est' osobyje funktsii", Biblioteka no. 10, 1998, p. 40-42)

Page 37

What is a library? Stoljarov asks. To him there have been many answers. Since the antiquity a library has been regarded as an institution, private or public, as a collection of books, as a place for storing books etc. In our days a great confusion of the concept can be observed. Stoljarov mentions examples from russian encyclopedias and textbooks of librarianship, where libraries have been regarded as institutions of enlightenment, as insti-

tutions of culture and foremost – in the Soviet period – as institutions with the purpose of ideological information.

Until the foundation of the russian federation the ideological function of libraries was regarded as the most important. But since that – and especially since the law of library service in 1994 – this had to change. Today several professionals regard libraries as information systems but this does not satisfy Stoljarov. To him libraries are not part of systems producing information. They just make resources of information available.

Here the article becomes a discussion of the objective of librarianship and a brisk controversy with V. Skvortsov, who has maintained the objective of librarianship to be information processes, the interaction of man and information. To this Stoljarov answers that the psychological processes or other mechanisms of this interaction have nothing to do with librarianship. The objective of librarianship is 'communication of documents', i.e. which documents are in the interest of whom, how can we fetch them, store them, make them available etc. When we have realized that these are the central questions we can start the discussion of the library's role as an institution of document communication in the information society.

Erik Adrian: Bogbrænding i Jekaterinburg (Auto-da-fé in Jekaterinburg)

Page 43

With reference to russian newspaper articles and to a russian report to IFLA's FAIFE Office in Copenhagen Erik Adrian outlines the case of auto-da-fé in Jekaterinburg May 1998. The controversial Bishop Nikon of Jekaterinburg arranged a burning of 'heretical' books. First Vice President of IFLA in Moscow made a protest to Patriarch Aleksii II but received a cold and reserved answer. The Case exposes a schism of the russian church, the Nikon wing of orthodoxy being ready to make use of undemocratic methods with reminders of the Soviet period.

Alina Dragomir and Marius Andrei Fudulu: Bibliotekssystemet i Rumænien (The Library System in Romania)

Page 47

The article is a general presentation of the library system in Romania, the library system at a national level. In the introduction the origin of modern Romanian library is traced back to the middle of the nineteenth century and the origin of these modern libraries are seen as a part of the cultural development at that time. The article focusses on the important and exemplary role of the library of the Romanian Academy as well as on the first university libraries around the turn of the century. Dealing briefly with the period between the two world wars the Central Public Library of Bucharest (Biblioteca Municipala Bucuresti) is accentuated. Library acts and decrees at the national level are presented, including the decree of 1990. The article then makes brief analyses of the following types of libraries: the National Library, and closely related to this the Library of the Romanian Academy (Biblioteca Academiei Romane), university and research libraries, school libraries, special libraries, public libraries and the libraries of the foreign cultural centers. The article thus presents an up to date overview of the Romanian library system and concludes with a condensed description of the development and changes during the last decade.

Cristina Laura Filip: Rumænske biblioteker – på vej mod nye udfordringer i år 2000 (Romanian libraries – towards new challenges in the year 2000)

Page 53

In the paper the Romanian library student Crista Filip gives a short presentation of the present situation of Romanian libraries. The book production in Romania has increased since 1989. Also the demand for information has grown, and the libraries need improvement and development to be able to meet the needs of the users. However, for Crista Filip the lack of co-operation - between libraries and librarians - is the key problem. Without co-operation it will not be possible to solve the economical and organisational problems of the libraries.

Gabriela Dumitrache: Studieordningen ved Afdelingen for Biblioteks- og Informationsvidenskab ved Bukarest Universitet (Curriculum at the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Bucharest)

Page 55

The article written describes the curriculum at the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Bucharest. The department was established in 1990. Among 220 applicants only 40 students are admitted a year. During 3 or 4 years of study the students are educated in a broad area of library and information science aspects. Both compulsory and optional courses are described in the article. The article describes the system of scholarships and mentions the exchange programs, that the department takes part in.

REVIEW

Anders Ørom: Biblioteksarbejdets mangesidighed (The Many-Sidedness of Library Work).

Page 59

En dag i biblioteket – ett urval dagböcker från 14 oktober 1996 (One Day in the Library – A Selection of Diaries From the 14th October 1996). A few years after the establishment of a Museum of Swedish Library History in Borås the organization behind the museum (Biblioteksmuseiföreningen) decided to create a dokumentation of the many-sidedness of the Swedish public libraries by the means of diaries written by librarians and other members of the library staff. More than 430 diaries covering the whole country were written. A selection of these diaries are published with a historical introduction in "One Day in the Library". The diaries are organized in chapters from a thematic point of view. The book thus creates a highly interesting and well organized material presented from a historical point of view. What is interesting as well is that the personal communication with the users, the librarian's involvement in her work and - in brief - the classical tradition are the essential themes in most of the diaries.

Anders Ørom: Lysets og stilhedens arkitekturhistorie (The architectural history of light and silence).

Page 63

The title of the Swedish book under review is 'Tystnaden och ljuset' (The Silence and the Light). The reviewer considers this book to be rather outstanding in a Nordic context. First and foremost because of the exposition and the interpretation of the history of library architecture during more than three thousand years. The history of

library architecture is treated in the context of both the history of libraries and the history of civilization and ideas. Following the development of 'the architecture of knowledge', the book draws on many written and visual resources which are interpreted and combined in an innovative way. A kind of a smaller problem in the book is that it is difficult to combine the architectural approach and a more general approach to library history in a broader social and cultural context.