

## Summaries

### Articles

**Pierre Evald: Forvandlingsbillede Bibliotek - visuelle miljøer og virtuelle rum (The Changing Library Interior - new visual environment and virtual spaces)**

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Library interior design is affected by the implementation of IT into the library environment and a mix between printed and electronic media is seen. The paper first discusses the origin and status of the library as a physical place in society, anchored in democratic values and serving as a centre for communication. The main phases in library interior design are outlined, with special emphasis on the development in self-service, from open shelves to today's implementation of self-service in the charging of library material. The expansion of electronic services and media has an impact on the visual environment and presented are a number of initiatives and experiments in lay-out from libraries in Scandinavia, England, Germany, the United States and Japan, public as well as academic libraries. Special emphasis is on the charging of material, enquiry zone, opac and Internet access. Also discussed are various implications of remote access for library users and the individual IR man-machine interaction versus the broader context for social interaction in the physical environment. Special emphasis is given to a German concept for interior design called the fractal library. Building on a former concept with the exposure of library material in three zones the fractal library elaborates on a mix of printed and electronic media on the libra-

ry's market place where you find a user driven lay-out and staff using team building and IT in their performance. Finally some recent experiments in Danish public libraries are presented, also including a demonstration of a virtual library.

**Birgit Heie: Relevans: kvalitet eller kvantitet? - forsøg på en begrebsmæssig afklaring (Relevance; quality or quantity? - attempt to a conceptual clarification)**

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Starting with the importance of the concept of relevance in information science, the meaning of relevance and related notions is examined. Relevance is fundamentally understood as a relation implying an interpretation. The different relations of relevance in IR is identified and described concerning essential problems, methods and significans for IR-research. Four recent theories about relevance is introduced: psychological relevance, situational relevance, hermeneutic relevance and knowledge-domain relevance, and differences and similarities between the theories is discussed. Finally the use of relevance as a measure for evaluation of information systems is examined in relation to the complex and qualitative theories in question, and it is concluded that the concept scarcely is consistent with a quantitative use.

**Svend Bruhns: Hvad blev der af Produktivitetsgåden : kvindelige og mandlige forskeres produktivitet (What happened to »the productivity puzzle«)**

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Many sociologists of science have found that male researchers generally produce many more scientific publications than females. It has also been stated that this difference is not due to marriage and motherhood. Jonathan R. Cole & Harriet Zuckerman have christened this anomaly »the productivity puzzle«. Researchers Kyvik et al. from the Norwegian Institute for Science and Education Studies (NIFU) claim that the difference after all is due to the mothering of infants. When they divided their sample of Norwegian female researchers from 1989 to 1991 by their children being over or under 6 years they found that when the youngest child was under 6 the females produced 58% less articles than corresponding males; when youngest child was 6 to 10 the difference was reduced to 33%, and when all children were over 10 the difference was only 8%. Kyvik et al. also demonstrate that the overall male-female difference in productivity has

been reduced from 1981 to 1991. Heine Andersen has found in a study on Danish social scientists that there is virtually no difference in male-female productivity. So »the productivity puzzle« may have dissolved itself.

**REVIEWS**

**Ole Jensen: Informations-alkymisterne og den uberegnelige mening. (The Information Alchemists and the Incalculable Meaning)**

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The title covers a review of Søren Brier's Ph.D. thesis "Information er sølv - " (Information is silver - ). The aim of the thesis is to establish an alternative transdisciplinary theoretical foundation for library and information science integrating and discussing research paradigms as second order Cybernetics, semiotics, system science and Wittgenstein's pragmatic language theory. The reviewer discusses critically - and from a philosophy of science point of view - some of the central concepts in Brier's theoretical framework.