

Summaries

ARTICLES

Bent Lerbæk Pedersen: I tegnenes verden. Lån af kinesiske bøger i Det kongelige Bibliotek (In the world of the signs: Loans of Chinese books in The Royal Library)

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In 1991 The Royal Library introduced a new electronic loan system which made it possible to provide statistical information concerning loans more easily. Using this facility the author analyses the relations between borrower categories and the loans of Chinese books and periodicals in the Oriental Department of the Danish Royal Library.

The borrowers are divided in four categories: scholars (including Chinese scholars), students, Chinese and others. The books are divided in eleven groups according to subjects: Archaeology, bibliography, philosophy/religion, history, art/architecture, literature, law, social topics, language, technology/nature/medicine and economics. Among scholars the most popular subjects are history (31%), philosophy/religion (16%) and social topics (14%). The students are - like the scholars - most interested in history (35%) and philosophy/religion (27%). The Chinese concentrate on literature, first and foremost fiction, and on contemporary social topics. The category »others« is a diminutive category. The article further analyses the loans within each group of literature. This analysis - as well as the former part of the article - gives an interesting insight into »the world of the signs« and what is actual in this world.

Erik Alstrup: Danske Historikere i Internationale Fagbibliografier (Danish Historian in International Subject Bibliographies)

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Since the 'fifties bibliographic databases have become important instruments to supervise scientific literature published in the Western countries.

Most bases are of American origin, their scope and indexing practices generally being strongly affected by this fact. Of course, books and periodicals of European origin are not left out, but speech areas and countries of less extent may be neglected.

The results of an investigation into the extent of which the works of Danish historians are represented in five international subject bibliographies demonstrate problems of representativity, consistency and actuality.

Foreign students of history are used to identify books and articles on whatever subject in *The International Bibliography of Historical Sciences (IBHSc)*, *Historical Abstracts (HA)* and *America: History and Life (AHL)*, the most important professional tools. The *Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHS)* and the *Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)* take in number of subject periodicals more limited than the *IBHSc*, *HA* and *AHL*; however, it can be expected that the most important periodicals are indexed in the *AHS*, to a less extent in the *SSCI*.

The investigation over the years 1977-92 substantiate that Danish works of history are not systematically represented in the *IBHSc* - some 50 titles a year could be expected, but at the best no more than 15 are found. In the *HA* a rather haphazard choice of Danish periodicals are considered, leaving out one of the core periodicals and several of the specialized ones. In seven periodicals represented in the *HA* and *AHL* some 40 % of the relevant total number of articles are not found in the databases. Periodicals published in English are much better represented than periodicals published in Danish, a few specialized periodicals more substantially represented than the general and more important periodicals. No criteria of omission have been identified. Representation is demonstrated to be incidental and varied over time. Moreover, some 35% of all articles represented are not documented until two years after publication. No relation can be established between degree of actuality and number of referees in the *HA* and *AHL*.

It is finally argued that the internationalization of Danish works of history demands a new organization of bibliographical enterprise. Danish historians should be responsible of selecting and delivering bibliographical data to the editorial offices in question. Data on the most important books and articles should be sent to the *IBHSc*, the *HA*, *AHL* and *AHS* should receive data on all articles published in the core periodicals and a balanced selection of specialized periodicals. The *SSCI* might be left out.

REVIEWS:

Leif Emerek: Läsäventyr från när och fjärran. Tolv bokpresentationer för unga vuxna. (Adventures of Reading) and När boken kom till bygden (As the Book Came to the Village)
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Leif Emerek reviews two Swedish books relevant for every one interested in public libraries.

The first one *Adventures of Reading. Twelve Book Presentations for Young Adults. Bibliotekstjänst, Lund 1994*, is written by the Swedish teacher and author Ulla Lundqvist. Her main subject is book-talking. She is convinced of the importance of developing young peoples ability of reading good books not only for their own sake but she also wants to insist on the importance of written literature, now that other mass-medias are threatening the reading. Ulla Lundqvist therefore advises teachers and librarians how to inspire youngsters to read by presenting to them fiction as a partner of existential dialogue. It is an important perspective but unfortunately the advices do not consider the aesthetic dimensions of fiction.

The second book *As the Book Came to the Village. On the Libraries of Popular Movements in Halland. Ed. by Carl Ole Samuelsson and Magnus Torstensson. Bokförlaget Settern. Örkelljunga, 1994*, is a history of a very unique kind of libraries in Sweden, in case small public libraries connected to Labour movement, temperance movement, peasants movement, and religious movements.

These small libraries were forerunners of the public libraries and they arose to support the numerous study circles founded at the beginning of this century. The main purpose of the study circle was to educate the workers and the villagers to be able to take part in building up the Swedish society and democracy. The book consists of fine historical analyses and memories from persons who can still remember the pioneer time.

Pierre Evald: »Selv se, selv undersøge, selv tænke..« : Det nordjyske Landsbiblioteks historie 1895-1995». (Look, Think and Find out for Yourself : The History of the Central Library of North Jutland 1895-1995)
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The book under review is divided in 8 chapters. 3 of these chapters give an account of the general history of »Det nordjyske Landsbibliotek«. The other 5 chapters deal with more specific aspects of the history of the library: the collection related to loans and users, the reference department and reference services, the county library functions, the children's library and the branches. The review contains a brief critical discussion of the way in which the relationship between the national and the local library history is treated, as well as it points to problems and blanks in the treatment of the organizational context of the implementation of information technology. Apart from such problems the reviewer finds that the book has many qualities and makes a new standard.