

## Summaries

### ARTICLES:

**Magnus Torstensson: At analysera folkbiblioteksutveckling: Exemplet Sverige och några jämförelser med USA (To analyse public library development: The Swedish case and some comparisons with the situation in the USA)**

Page: 5-28

In his article the Swedish researcher and library school teacher Magnus Torstensson treats the question of how public library development could be analysed. That is a main theme in his ongoing doctoral project on the breakthrough in Sweden of the public library ideas in the Anglo-American sense during the period 1890-1930.

The popular libraries in Sweden in the late 19th century were in most cases very small and out of date. Most of them were parish libraries managed by the Church of Sweden. They were patriarchal or philanthropic and intended for, as was then often said, "the lower and broader part of the population". The discussion of a kind of more developed popular libraries, after the Anglo-American public library model, did not have its beginning in Sweden until around the year 1900. The main task of the article is to try to explain that state of things. Sweden got its first public library decree in 1905 and a new much ameliorated one in 1912 after an investigation, mainly carried out by Valfrid Palmgren. Therein she forcefully pleaded for the application of the Anglo-American public library ideas in Sweden. In 1930 Sweden got a modern public library decree with rules similar to those of the public library act of Denmark from 1920.

Torstensson in the first part of his article treats the question of how the Anglo-American public library concept gradually succeeded to gain ground in Sweden during the early 20th century. What made that happen precisely then? In the searching for an answer Torstensson firstly turns to the comprehen-

sive research and discussion concerning that in USA.

After treating the epochmaking works from the late 1940-ies by Jesse Shera and Sidney Ditzion he investigates Robert V. Williams contributions in regard to how public library development in USA could be explained. Williams is a prominent pleader for the use of quantitative methods within Library and Information Science (LiS). He also tries to discover "laws of library development". Torstensson shares the criticism by Michael H. Harris of how these methods have been used within LiS. Harris himself, in his research on the founding of Boston Public Library, accentuates the role of the motives of the founders and finds that in Boston it dealt with the upholding of social control.

What research methods does then Torstensson himself prefer to use? For him it is a question of structures of society as well as intentional action by actors/agents. But how could a linking of action and structure be done? When he works with that difficult and crucial point he is influenced by the concepts "structural capacity" and "experiences and expectations" given by respectively E.O. Wright and Reinhart Koselleck.

In the middle of the 19th century there was a very restricted view concerning the role of the state in Sweden. At the beginning of the 20th century, however, the state had begun to intervene within many spheres of the society. The rise of the first public library decree in 1905 can be understood in that context. Pioneers from the Nordic countries from the 1890-ies began to plead for public libraries in the Anglo-American sense. Initially they got very little response in Sweden but the interest in their ideas increased around the year 1900 and was rather great ten years later. This together with the changing role of the state in the question of public libraries Torstensson sees as a sign of qualitative changes of structure of society in Sweden in the very early 20th century.

Traditionally the rise of public libraries in a country have been analysed in relation to economic, political and social development. Every country, however, does not develop good public libraries in such a process. In Sweden it however happened. An important question is why that was the case. There is in Sweden, Torstensson thinks, a long tradition of integration instead of conflict as a means for conflictsolving. In the early 20th century the popular libraries in Sweden were outdated as such a means. Something new was needed. The public libraries can in that light be seen as a means in a new kind of integration intended to face the threats and needs in a period of swift changes. The old patriarchal and philanthropic libraries were libraries for subjects. What was now needed were libraries in which members of all the different classes of society could meet and satisfy their needs; libraries for citizens. Liberals as well as socialists and moderate conservatives could at that time take initiatives to found as well libraries within their own organizations as public libraries managed by the local authorities.

**Edith Clausen: Vurdering af forskellige systemudviklingsmodeller med henblik på anvendelsen i et bibliotek (Evaluation of Different Systems Design Models concerning Implementation in a Library)**

Page: 29-44

Starting with the basis in schools, processes and paradigms in systems design three traditional systems design models are examined to find out, if one or more of the models would be useful, when a library is going to implement or develop an edp-based information system. All three models are rejected, and the paper points at evolutionary system development (evolutionary prototyping) as the ideal model.

**Tordis Ustved: "Money, money, money - ": hvor frie må markedskrefterne være i et fremtidsrettet bedriftsbibliotek? ("Money, money, money - ": how free are the markets forces allowed to be in a future-directed enterprise library)**

Page: 45-52

NRK - Norsk Rikskringkasting - (The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation) is the oldest and most important broadcasting institution in Norway. In later years NRK has undergone a considerable restructuring, partly based on the pattern of major Norwegian industries.

The article brings a survey of the process and its effects on NRK library activities, and draws a parallel with Norway's biggest industrial concern Norsk Hydro. In their reorganized library, user payment was introduced - with satisfactory results.

In the public service broadcasting institution NRK, however, user payment is not a feasible concept. Nevertheless, procedures and results should be carefully studied. What seems favourable may be adopted at a later stage.

**Bente Strand: De stille eksistenser (The humble lives)**

Page: 53-56

With comparative references to former treatments of the subject: newspaper reviews of literature for children and youth, the article presents the results of a quantitative analysis of this type of reviews in 8 Danish daily newspapers during 2 periods, respectively 12.6.-9.10.92 and 7.12.92-2.4.94. The conclusion is that only 8,4 % of all book reviews in these 8 daily newspapers are reviews of literature for children and youth. This is the reason why books for children and youth live their humble lives in the daily newspapers.

## REVIEWS

### **Svend Bruhns: Bogtrykkerhistorieforskning (Research in the History of Printers)**

Page: 57-58

The article reviews "Harald Ilsøe: Bogtrykkerne i København og deres virksomhed ca. 1600-1810. En bibliografisk håndbog med bidrag til bogproduktionens historie". (The printers in Copenhagen and their activities from ab.1600 to 1810. A bio-bibliographical reference book with contributions to the history of book production. By Harald Ilsøe).

Harald Ilsøe is a scholar and a former research librarian at The Royal library in Copenhagen. The main part of the work is a collection of biographies of all printers of books in Copenhagen based on a scrupulous examination of a large stock of printed

sources, and some unprinted. The biographies are packed with information relevant to the printers' work. Everything is documented by references to the literature, and there are lists of books that emanated from the presses. The author stresses the continuity of the firms. Its is a pioneer work, indispensable for the study of Danish book history.

### **Svend Bruhns: Fund og forskning (Finds and Researches)**

Page: 59-61

The book under review is "Fund og forskning i Det kongelige Biblioteks Samlinger" (Finds and researches in the collections of The Royal Library) which is the scholarly Yearbook of The National Library of Denmark, published since 1954. It is a goldmine of information for people interested in the history of books etc. The reviewer esp. praises the literature reviews introduced from vol. 31.