

Summaries

ARTICLES:

Søren Brier: Hen mod en tværfaglig informationsvidenskab (Towards an interdisciplinary information science)

First a general description and a model of library and information science as dealing with designing and describing rules for information systems which collect, register, organize, store, classify, retrieve, distribute and communicate documents is given.

Through an analysis of the cognitivist theory of information science several weak points in the understanding of meaning and natural language are exposed.

The advantage of the cognitive viewpoint is analysed. It is found that there still is a lack of concepts to understand the dynamic, collective, cultural and historical aspects of information and knowledge.

To bridge the gap between the science inspired cognitive science and the hermeneutic (social and cultural) understanding of knowledge, the framework of second order cybernetics and the semiotics of C.S. Peirce is suggested.

The paper concludes with some new definitions of the concepts of knowledge, information and data, which provide an interdisciplinary understanding of the subject of information and library science.

Anders Ørom: Formatering af undervisningsområdet - med udgangspunkt i nogle refleksioner over kundskab og information (Formating the curriculum - departing from some reflections on knowledge and information)

The article discusses how to integrate the numerous and rather heterogeneous subjects taught at The Royal Danish School of Librarianship. An integra-

tion on the basis of information science is considered as problematic and too narrow in its scope, partly because the theories in information science in general does not deal with basic historical and cultural aspects of the subject field and partly because the concept of information is understood as (discrete) entities, which can be processed and handled in obedience to strict logical procedures. The concept of knowledge is considered to be the better alternative because it is understood as structured and argumented wholes.

Of course this does not mean that information science and the concept of information are irrelevant to education in library and information science, but it *do* mean that we need other types of theories and concepts related to knowledge and culture.

Departing from modern uses of the concepts of information and knowledge the article tries to trace and to give an historical explanation of changes in the meaning and social status of the concepts - starting from the age of enlightenment and ending in the "age of information".

After analyzing and discussing these concepts the article proposes an analytical division of the curriculum into four levels, creating a connection between a series of subjects. The first level aims at historical and social understanding of the Library Documentation & Information area and profession. The second centres on the organization of knowledge and the analysis of culture and knowledge areas. The third deals with the valuation, analysis and representation of documents in a broad perspective. The fourth deals with information and cultural mediation.

Leif Kajberg: Indholdsanalyse af forskning på BDI-området i Danmark 1965-1989 (Library and Information Science Research in Denmark 1965-1989: A Content Analysis of R & D Publications)

Abstract:

A content analysis of published library and information science (LIS) research in Denmark 1965-89 is reported. A total of 429 items were identified as research-based publications (source publications) and analyzed according to 15 variables including the subject coverage and research methods of Danish LIS research. The study also grouped LIS R & D studies published in Denmark on types of library and information agencies. Fields of investigation that have attracted researchers' interest and dominating research topics are illuminated and gaps and lacunas in the Danish LIS research landscape are touched upon as well. A significant feature of the results is the marked concentration on R & D focussing on **public libraries**. The distribution of source publications over broad topics revealed that there is a heavy concentration on two main subjects: information storage & retrieval and LIS service activities. Empirical research methods are predominant in Danish LIS research but conceptual methods also have a clear appeal to LIS researchers. A remarkable feature that emerged from the statistical distributions and the division into five-year blocks is the rather dramatic growth of the volume of research measured in output (research publications) over the years, from five-year period to five-year period. Research output grew from 25 items during 1965-69 to 167 items during the 1985-89 period. Results of the study emphasize the significant role of the Royal School of Librarianship in Danish LIS research. During the period of examination the School consolidated its position as a leading research centre in the LIS field in Denmark. The findings of the retrospective study of Danish LIS research 1965-89 support the conclusion that the degree of maturity and the level of development reached by Danish LIS research and LIS research communities over the 25 year-period examined do not fully meet the criteria for social and cognitive institutionalization applied to scientific disciplines. Findings of the study also

show that the Danish LIS research community at large seems to be very fragmented and non-homogeneous.

Keywords:

Library & information science*Research*Research Methods*Subject coverage*Denmark

Birger Hjørland: Kvalitet og faglitteratur. Nogle bemærkninger til Carl Gustav Johannsens (CGJ) artikel. (Quality and Subject Literature. Comments to Carl Gustav Johannsen's article.)

This article is a reply to a discussion. In *Biblioteksarbejde*, 1992, no. 37, pages 39-66, C.G. Johannsen in his article "Quality Issues in the Danish Library Sector" argues against points of view this author has published in *Svensk Biblioteksforskning*/(Swedish Library Research, 1992, no. 3, pages 17-37.

The essence of the different viewpoints could be summarised in the following way:

Johannsen takes the position that quality regarding science and its literature (that is "subject literature" or "non-fiction") should be looked upon from the customers's point of view, and LIS should try to develop a management of quality in libraries based on facts which should be easy to define and measure.

Hjørland takes the position that scientific quality is not primarily a question of customer satisfaction, and that simple, easily measurable criteria of scientific quality do not exist. LIS should look at the quality of subject literature from the point of view of a theory of science that is from criteria internal to scientific argumentation and methods.

There is some tendencies typical of the time in Johannsens argumentation. These tend to reduce scientific criteria of truth and quality to commercial, easily measurable and usercentered criteria. In other words: this view could be seen as a "liberalization" of science (and libraries) parallel to the liberalization of other social sectors.

Johannsen argues that scientific theories are not true or false. The implication of his viewpoint might be that truth and quality are related to what somebody is willing to use or to pay for. The extreme consequence would be: He who can pay owes the truth. This view is in opposition to the whole enterprise of science and enlightenment.

Michael Søgaard Larsen: Dansk pædagogisk forsknings repræsentation i internationale databaser 1 (The representation of Danish educational research in international databases 1)

The article is a quantitative examination of, how Danish educational research is represented in international databases within the field of education. Amongst the results are, that Danish educational research is quoted "too little" in respect to its collective volume; but the number of citations is not too small in comparison to the number of foreign language documents. Furthermore that the Nordic base PEPSY (pedagogics and psychology) has the best representation of Danish educational research. The article will be followed up later by an article, that with a basis in the same data material - will deal with scientific theoretical problems and content