

Summaries

ARTICLES:

Alfred Gynter Christensen: BDI-uddannelser på højt niveau. (Library and Information Science Educations at post-tertiary Level).

Page 5.

In August 1990 the first students entered the Master of Library and Information Science program at The Aalborg Branch. It's the first program of its kind in Denmark and was implemented with inspiration from elsewhere, especially from Great Britain and the United States.

This article makes an attempt to present a general view of what in fact are the major trends in the LIS educations in Great Britain, USA and other countries, where they have well-developed successful programs at post-tertiary level, such as Germany, France, Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Canada, India and Australia. The greatest importance is attached to the trends in each of these countries, and on what characterizes their LIS education programs, such as: general admissions requirements, length of programs, contents of programs, the relation between and contents of required and elective courses, if any practical experience is part of programs and so on. This information is mainly taken from bulletins, catalogues and information material acquired from a representative selection of institutions.

In addition, a portion of journal articles as well as letters from professors and others at the institutions contacted has been an invaluable support for this article in making it possible to get some idea of the major and minor problems by which one is confronted in the LIS educations around the world. Some of these are pointed out, and likewise some possible future trends are mentioned both in general and in particular.

In short, the last part of the article summarizes world-wide trends and it sees two main areas in LIS, or more specifically two types of information specialists that the LIS education programs seem to be aiming at. These can be characterized as "Information System Designers" and "Information System Managers". In spite of these 2 trends most of the LIS educations are based on the same general concepts and they embrace the same disciplines and topics. One of the exceptions is found at the Freie Universität Berlin. Their Information Science Program also covers and attaches importance to subjects as social and cultural aspects of information technology implementation together with theory of knowledge. In other words they seem to give human and social aspects of information use and management more attention than elsewhere.

Leif Kajberg: Michael H. Harris - en præsentation. (Michael H. Harris - an Introduction).

Page 35.

This bibliographical essay reviews the scholarly production by Michael H. Harris, American library historian, library educator and library researcher.

During the 1970's Michael H. Harris published the results of many years' critical inquiry into the history of American public libraries. His studies on the origin and development of the American public library movement trace and unmask the ideological foundations of public libraries in USA in the 19th and 20th Century. Also identified are the interests served by public libraries. During recent years Harris has devoted attention to the nature and theoretical foundations of library and information science as a discipline. His critical views on the present state and orientation of library research and his efforts to point out the dominance of the pluralist paradigm and its influence on library research and library practice in USA. Harris criticism relates to the widespread and generally accepted concern with the pluralist paradigm combined with a narrow positivist epistemology within the library research community and the library profession. Harris calls for a reorientation of library research

and formulates three critical methodological imperatives: 1) Research must be holistic 2) Research must be reflective and empirical 3) Research must be dialectical and give priority to analyzing changes, conflicts and tensions.

The author also presents Harris' critical views on American library historiography. Harris articulates critical viewpoints on the limited perspective and outlook in most American library history publications that have appeared after 1950 and he criticizes the trends among library historians and library professionals towards ignoring marked new developments in American history research. Critical historians, however, argue that historical research should concentrate on explaining how librarians have practised their profession in the light of their ideas, values, attitudes and prejudices.

The results of Harris' critical research in and his "demythologizing" concern with American public library history are synthesized in the monograph **The Role of the Public Library in American Life: a Speculative Essay**.

Harris' findings illuminate the role of the public library as an instrument of social control and a means for preserving "stasis". The library was intended as a stabilizing and educational agency in American society.

Special consideration is given to Michael H. Harris' investigations of the founding and development of Boston Public Library. Finally, mention is made of Harris' library history textbooks and his state-of-the-art reviews of library history research.

Alfred Gynter Christensen: Folkebibliotekernes udstillingsvirksomhed. (Exhibition Activities in Danish Public Libraries).
Page 43.

This article is based on a nation-wide questionnaire (by Anders Ørom and Bruno Kjær), which among other things surveyed the themes of exhibitions made in Danish public libraries in 1989. It dis-

tinguishes between three types of exhibitions: 1) exhibitions made by the library (i.e. the staff), 2) exhibitions arranged by the library (i.e. made by people outside the library, except for travelling exhibitions), and 3) travelling exhibitions.

An evaluation of the main tendencies is given, and the question is asked whether there are any surprises at all? The few exceptions do not indicate much in the pattern of general impressions is the slightly disappointing answer.

What about the future? How can the public libraries maintain or better increase their exhibition activities in spite of reduced economic resources? The article airs some suggestions, for instance more use of local talent (i.e. individuals and groups in the local community), which is highly recommended, and so is interlibrary exchange of the best exhibitions.

REVIEWS

Niels Windfeld Lund: "Folkebibliotekerne og folkeoplysningen" - Et kritisk essay. (The Public Libraries and "Public Education" - An critical Essay).
Page 53.

The essay deals with problems raised by the survey published in "Folkeoplysning og folkebibliotekerne" (F&F) by Bodil K. Hansen from the Danish Research and Development Centre for Adult Education, 1990, and what kind of relations there are between public libraries and the different institutions and organisations of adult education and community education in Denmark, and what kind of relation there ought to be.

First a discussion and a problematization of the question of the growing distinction between and separation of the basic intentions of public libraries and adult/community education, resulting in a relatively isolated and neutrally oriented public

library system and a relatively open, progressive and idealistic system of adult education.

On the basis of a critical discussion of the results from the survey, the essayist suggests that one can conceive of libraries and adult education as equal elements in the process of so-called "folkeoplysning" (public education) as a trend in new projects within community education, replacing more traditional "master-servant" relationship between adult educators and librarians.

Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz: Indvanderlitteraturen svensk undersøgelse. (Literature for Immigrants - a Swedish Investigation).

Page 63.

The Swedish book under review is "En gång invandrare - alltid invandrare?" ("Once Immigrant - Immigrant forever?"), based on investigations in Swedish public libraries in the Malmöhus county. The reviewer discusses the results presented in the book from various points of view: library and cultural policy, methodology and relevance for the immigrant services in the Danish public library

system. The reviewer's conclusion is that the book is an interesting, stimulation and provocative contribution to the very important debate on immigrant services **and** that the its suggestions for improved services are highly relevant to Danish public libraries.

Erik Olander: Har vi brug for bibliotekshistorien? (Do we need Library History?).

Page 67.

In this review a collection of main examination papers written by students at the Swedish School of Library and Information Science is treated. The six articles in "Biblioteksstuderande skriver bibliotekshistoria" (Students of LIS write library history) covers the period from 1809 to 1970. The reviewer concentrates on the character of the analyses and on the conceptual frameworks used in these analyses. One article is especially emphasized because of its interdisciplinary character. Finally the significance of library history is discussed and stressed.