Summaries

Michael Cotta-Schønberg: En refleksion over universitetsbibliotekets fremtidsperspektiv anno 2009. (A reflection concerning the possible future of the university library as seen in 2009)
Pages: 5-19

The article investigates the development towards digital documents, including developments in the publishing industry, developments in library accession and in users' behavior. It is estimated that Copenhagen University Library within 5 years has stopped subscribing to printed journals; within 20 years it has stopped buying printed books and within 30 years the whole collection of printed literature will be replaced by digital editions. The users find information in many different ways and the catalogs and homepage of the library are not their primary search tools. Research libraries compete with both specialized bibliographical databases and with general search engines – and they seem to be losing the struggle. Based on this perspective the article presents and discusses possible functions that research libraries may be handling in the future. Among the possible functions are the developing of search systems, the establishing of study environments, personal information services including user education, research registration, the establishing of repositories, data management and digitalization of the information resources of the university. If the libraries succeed in hanging on to the delivery and mediation of digital knowledge resources to the university they may survive as institutions; if they do not succeed, a valuable institution, which has served civilization for centuries, will disappear because new times are better served by new solutions, why the time of libraries has ended.

Birger Hjørland: Visioner for forskningsbiblioteker. Et forsknings- og uddannelsesperspektiv (Visions of the future for research libraries: From the perspective of library and information research and education)
Pages: 21-35

This article examines the challenges that face research libraries as a consequence of the digital development. It shortly considers the core functions of research libraries which cannot in the digital age be isolated from the functions of publishers and certain other kinds of mediating. The vision in this paper is not the library as a physical place, but the contribution to information tasks in relation to scientific and scholarly communication. This includes teaching of information searching (i.e., the establishing of "information literacy" in users) and establishing metadata, which make a difference for the user. The organization of research libraries must be reconsidered and models such as the Danish KVINFO and the German Zentrum für Psychologische Information und Dokumentation (ZPID) are seen as possible models for the future. The article argues that these problems and the future qualifications have to be developed from the perspective of science studies.

Luke Tredinnick: The analogue library in the digital world: professional education and the changing face of librarianship. (Det analoge bibliotek i den digitale verden. Ændringer i biblioteksprofession, viden og uddannelse).
Pages: 37-50

This chapter explores the future of research libraries in the wake of challenges posed by the rapid developments in scholarly publishing and information retrieval. It will argue that the library profession faces a series of serious threats to its future. Libraries have traditionally played a central role facilitating and supporting research by making information integral to the research process available and accessible. But over the last twenty years that role has increasingly been undermined by developments in scholarly publishing, information retention and information retrieval. As content has migrated to digital platforms, the library is no longer a gravitational centre around which the research process orbits. This paper will argue that in order to ensure that libraries continue to have a key role in the research process and institutions of the future, the library profession needs to reconsider the value it can add to information collections through its professional activities. It will argue that librarianship needs to become more critically engaged with the substantive debates and trends informing research activities. One way of achieving that critical engagement may be through the development of a new generation of library and information professional education qualifications.

Harald von Hielmcrone: Det digitale bibliotek. Vilkår og visioner (The Digital Library. Circumstances and Visions)
Pages: 51-60

The future of research libraries over the next 20 years is compared to the development in television broadcasting. Despite a desire for plurality we have witnessed an increasingly homogeneus range of television programmes. This is due to the organization of the market for television programmes. A similar principle of organization is gaining af foothold in the market for library materials.

If the libraries are satisfied with this development all that is necessary will be a great grant for licences, a good book-keeping office, and a computing department to administer the terms of access - just as the

cable companies are now working in the area of radio and television broadcasting.

The legal regulation of the area, especially acts of copyright and personal data, will make it difficult for libraries to oppose the market and continue to make a universal and high-quality supply of information available to the users. If the tendencies of homogenization are to be counteracted it will take an active effort. This presupposes that library employees must have professional qualifications in the subjects and disciplines that the library is expected to communicate, in addition to knowledge of media and information legislation.

Gunner Lind: Humaniora, elektronisk publicering og forskningsbibliotekerne. (The humanities, electronic publication and the research libraries)
Pages: 61-67

A number of structural constraints have prevented a large scale transfer of publication from primarily paper to primarily electronic within the humanities, in the way it has happened in the sciences and medicine. These constraints are partly of an economic and organizational character, partly due to a lack of really satisfying technical solutions. In both areas it might be possible for research libraries to contribute significantly to finding solutions to the mutual benefit of the libraries and the humanists.

Jytte Nielsen: Viden i spil. Et bud på bibliotekernes rolle i fremtiden. (Co-Creator of Knowledge. A Vision of the Future of Libraries)
Pages: 69-75

Taking its point of departure in KVINFO's development of a women's history Internet portal, the article argues that the research libraries should play a greater role as co-creators in the production of knowledge and in the communication of research. Research libraries build on disciplinary as well as library professional expertise and they have extensive knowledge of the users' needs. In combination, this knowledge calls for the development of new knowledge tools. KVINFO's experiences in this field might inspire other research libraries.