

## Editorial

This fourth issue of the Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies marks the end of the second year for the journal. As the editor of a scientific journal, you have the opportunity and privilege to closely follow the development of the journal and a portion of the research field it is situated in. One characteristic of the research field of Library and Information Studies (LIS) is arguably societal relevance. The societal relevance of LIS is evident in the ways researchers from the field present inspiring, analytical, and critical studies addressing burning issues of our time. Looking back, it is clear that the Covid-19 pandemic has been – and still is – a major global crisis that keeps affecting almost every aspect of our daily lives.

In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies recently contributed with a thematic issue on research on pandemic and crisis information (vol 2, no 1), providing current research on the impact of what is now known as the first wave of Covid-19 on libraries and on young people's information behavior. For next year, the editorial committee of the journal has commissioned another thematic issue of high societal relevance: public libraries in times of political turmoil<sup>1</sup>. These two thematic issues highlight both the strong societal relevance of LIS research and how the Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies aims to capture issues of international significance and provide Nordic perspectives.

This fourth issue of the journal is not a thematic issue, but this open issue nevertheless clearly reflects both international topics of significance and Nordic perspectives on LIS. In this issue, the four scientific articles connect to two research areas that have historically attracted a great deal of interest from Nordic scholars within LIS: public libraries, and research practices and publication patterns. The first two research articles present studies focused on public libraries. Even though theoretical and empirical approaches differ, the two articles express an interest in how library users are constructed and positioned in relation to library policies and activities. In the first article, "Public libraries for all? A study on accessibility and participation in library policies", Lisa Engström studies the meaning ascribed to the concepts accessibility and participation in Swedish library plans, and how these concepts relate to each other as library users are constructed in these policy documents. The second article, authored by Bo Skøtt, is titled "Introducing society: A lifelong learning perspective on public libraries' contribution to integration" and presents a study that suggests a shift from the notion of

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<sup>1</sup> See Call for Papers: <https://tidsskrift.dk/njlis/announcement/view/932>

integration to lifelong learning in the context of public library initiatives directed towards asylum seekers in Denmark.

The next two articles of this issue concern research practices and publication patterns. In the article “Publication practices in the Humanities: An in-depth case study of a Swedish Arts and Humanities Faculty 2010–2018”, Joacim Hansson, Koraljka Golub, Jukka Tyrkkö and Ida Ahlström investigate characteristics of research practices and publication patterns against the background of digital scholarship and performance-based systems for managing and funding research. The article presents an in-depth study of publication patterns from a single faculty, as the relation between policy initiatives and publication practices are studied using bibliometric data from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Linnaeus University. The fourth article of this issue focuses a single discipline, but the perspective is transnational rather than local. In “Publishing patterns in pharmacy: A bibliometric analysis of publications from six Nordic universities”, Terhi Sandgren presents a bibliometrical study of publishing patterns among pharmacy researchers from six Nordic universities using data from Current Research Information Systems.

As usual, this issue also includes a section of book reviews – this time with no less than six reviewed titles. The review section begins with two reviews of current titles from the growing body of literature on Open Access. First, Antti Rousi reviews “Open access in theory and practice. The theory-practice relationship and openness” written by Stephen Pinfield, Simon Wakeling, David Bawden, and Lyn Robinson. Then Samuel Moore offers a review of “Corporate capitalism’s use of openness: Profit for free?” written by Arwid Lund and Mariano Zukerfeld. After these two reviews, we present four reviews of recent Nordic PhD theses from the field of LIS. As indicated by a study on Nordic PhD dissertations from the discipline between 2005–2014 (Tveit, 2017), to attend to PhD theses offer a broad understanding of the range of research topics in LIS. For this reason, and as a suggestion for future research, it would be interesting to see more studies charting (Nordic) LIS research from the perspective of PhD dissertations.

In any case, to include reviews of current PhD theses from the Nordic countries is part of our Nordic focus, and a practice that I believe will be widely appreciated as the discipline continues to expand and develop. First among the thesis reviews, Nanna Kann-Rasmussen reviews “Atmospheres of surveillance” by Karen Grova Sjøilen. The next review by Ola Pilerot concerns the thesis “Performing interdisciplinary knowledge: Information work in emerging interdisciplinary research” written by Eystein Gullbekk. After that, Ulrika Sjöberg reviews “Performing search. Search engines and mobile devices in the everyday life of young people” written by Cecilia Andersson. Anna Sparrman then reviews “(I) Kindly like: Participatory research with young people about identity and social media” by Amira Sofie Sandin. The review section consequently offers examples of both Nordic LIS research and Nordic perspectives on LIS research that I believe will be of interest to both researchers and practitioners within the diverse international field of LIS.

Since my year as editor-in-chief is coming to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our authors, reviewers, the editorial committee, our guest editors, and the colleagues in Copenhagen managing the journal system. The making of a scientific journal is indeed a social practice, and you are all vital parts of the “continuous cycle of reading, writing, discussing, searching, investigating, presenting, submitting, and reviewing” that constitutes scholarship and a research community (Borgman, 2007, p. 47). With these introductory words, I invite you as a reader to join this cycle and to read and engage with the inspiring research presented and reviewed in this issue.

**Fredrik Hanell**  
Editor-in-chief

**Editorial**

**References**

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