Summaries

Tor Arne Dahl & Anne Mangen: Deep reading i biblioteket. Et kritisk lys på håndteringen av e-bøker i fag- og folkebibliotek. (Deep reading in the library. A critical perspective on the handling of e-books in academic and public libraries)
Pages: 5-21

Libraries are eager to offer e-books to their patrons. Most Norwegian academic libraries have large collections of e-books, while public libraries could offer Norwegian titles for the first time in 2013.

In this article, we explore how libraries' e-book collections support deep reading, which refers to concentrated and coherent reading of linear and mostly written text. The reading behaviour on the Internet, with multitasking and frequent distractions, is considered as a threat to this type of reading.

The authors present interdisciplinary empirical research on digital reading with special emphasis on different reading technologies and their affordances. Findings from this research is then compared to the handling of e-books in academic and public libraries in Norway.

The review shows that the implementation of e-books in academic libraries is undermining libraries' mandate to support deep reading practices and purposes. In contrast, e-book solutions in public libraries seem, in this respect, more successful. The combination of current reading technologies and the systems for e-book lending in libraries – academic as well as public – means that e-books cannot yet replace paper books, but they will work well as a supplement to physical copies.

Bo Skøtt: Narrative udvidelser. Referencearbejde i et ELIS-perspektiv. (Narrative Extensions. Reference Work in an ELIS Perspective)
Pages: 23-35

The aim of this pilot study is to examine how and why stakeholders occasionally activate narratives in communications with librarians in public libraries. Different stakeholders' narrative extensions of the reference interview are studied using a culture analytical approach. Theoretically, this study is based on Anthony Giddens' characteristic of late modern expert systems as functionally differentiated and Reijo Savolainen's theory on information retrieval as a basis for stakeholders' different ways of dealing with mastery of life in the effort to maintain a good life.

The study confirms the two initial assumptions: 1) that some stakeholders activate narrative extensions because they choose to emphasize the interpersonal relationship between stakeholder and librarian, as if it was any other social relation and thereby ignoring other, more representative parts of the librarians' functions and 2) that other stakeholders use narrative extensions in an effort to legitimize their own social position and identity through critical reflection on librarians' and public libraries' institutional positions and powers. Stakeholders are able to promote themselves as active individuals through the narrative

expansion. They are not only exposed to an expert system's whim, but have a say in the construction of their social positions.

Finally appears the contours of a third assumption, that 3) any stakeholder, in different ways, in different life situations and social positions, uses the contact with the librarians to negotiate meaning in public. This construction of meaning is considered essential for the understanding of what context means for the interaction between stakeholders and librarians, and serves as a possible starting point for further studies.