

Thursday 25th of August

Paper session I

Reading Seed Project – Improved language skills before starting school

Paper presentation by Frida Aune Forland and Runar Skrøvset from the Multilingual Library, Oslo - Thursday 25th of August.

Forland and Skrøvset described their project, methods and results when introducing library services to children in nurseries with a special focus on bilingual kids.

The project used following work methods successfully:

- Involving the children actively in the reading process.
- Making sure that books appealed to children across age.
- Securing that they picked out books in the same topics that the nursery works with.
- Offering books that can stimulate children in their mother tongue.
- Offering translations of classic children's books, and popular titles.
- Offering bilingual picture books.
- Having books showing diverse selection of people so all children can identify with the books.

The project came up with following results

- Parents and children found it motivating to find books in their own language and started participating more actively in reading activities.
- It was productive to involve the nursery staff actively and teach them how better to help all children participate.
- Having a book party when new books were introduced where a success.
- It was a success to allow home loans and family learning.

My Own Way, Mentor Network

Paper presentation by Mette Østerberg, KVINFO - Thursday 25th of August.

KVINFO Mentor Network matches young women with ethnic minority background with ethnic Danish women. The network is open to all types of immigrant women, well educated as well as uneducated and marginalized women.

The Project aims to support young ethnic minority girls placed in Vollsmose in Odense. 45 women are participating in the project.

The mentor relationship starts with an interview with the young women in order to match them with the right mentor.

There have also been some initiatives to start e-mentoring so for mentors outside the area can take part.

According to the young girls a benefit from the program is an expansion of their network. They also gain a higher degree of social skills by participating.

Because the mentor project arranges their meetings at the library, the project also creates more awareness of the library as a good meeting place.

Identifying a Win-Win-Situation: Project Newcomers and the New Challenges

Paper presented by Vibeke Nielsen and Mette Johnsen, The Danish State and University Library, The Danish Library Center for Integration - Thursday 25th of August.

Over the past year the Library Center for Integration, a department of The Danish State and University, has headed a national library project, Project Newcomers, aiming to equip local libraries to attract and meet the demands of a new user group – newcomers.

The national newcomer project is run by The Danish Library Center for Integration in cooperation with Greve Library, The Danish National Centre for Social Research, and three anchor libraries. The project is funded by the Danish Agency for Library and Media and is planned to run until the end of December 2011.

In order to secure future wealth, welfare, and retention of competitive strength in Denmark, there have been still stronger political signals that an effort must be made not only to attract but also to retain a large number of skilled foreign workers – so-called newcomers.

Project Newcomers aims to contribute to a general awareness of the Danish local libraries and their potential to play a key role in future retention strategies towards newcomers by:

- Equipping local libraries to service newcomers as a new user group
- Marketing the array of library services relevant to newcomers where newcomers are
- Raising awareness of library services among external parties such as organizations and institutions outside the library sector

Partnerships are built with partners outside the library world, for instance:

- with local parties such as local tourist agencies, municipal representatives, local sports or cultural associations, women's clubs etc.
- with parties that represent or service newcomers such as Human Resource departments at major or local businesses/companies, language schools, national organizations and initiatives for expats etc.

Expat Dinners at the library is an example of local and regional cooperation coming together and a very successful initiative. The event sprung out of a concept laid out by the organization Expat in Denmark – having Danes invite expats home for an informal meal.

The Project Newcomers, The organization Expat in Denmark and the Association New Danes decided on a common date for the dinner at the library and joined forces in engaging host libraries, producing PR materials for the libraries to use, and handling registrations and press contacts on a national level. The product was a national pot luck dinner involving 17 libraries and close to 500 Danes and Expats each family bringing a national dish for an international buffet. As it was up to the host libraries to plan information and entertainment 17 very different Expat Dinners took place at the libraries. One had arranged Danish music, one had invited international consultants from the municipality, one demonstrated the library's children's services, and one presented an English book club concept.

Good partnerships depend on the ability to define a win-win – situation. As for the concept of Expat Dinners, Expat in Denmark managed to get Danes to meet with Expats, and the libraries were given a great opportunity to meet a new audience.

Paper session II

How can the Local Library become a Meeting Place for Immigrants?

Paper presentation by Synnøve Ulvik, Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science, Oslo University College - Thursday 25 August.

The library of Torshov, a branch of Oslo public library, has for 20 years had a widespread cooperation with local schools, health stations, youth clubs, social workers and several sections of the local authorities.

The library's original idea was to establish a memory group for immigrant women but they had problems attracting the women.

In 2008 a more stable group was established, this time consisting of both men and women, from not only one class, but two. They meet every third or fourth week together with two teachers, the head librarian of Torshov, who runs the group, and a researcher.

Participants from about twenty countries have attended the group. The largest group of participants is from Somalia, second highest from Pakistan, then Iraq, Turkey, Morocco, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

At the beginning the group was a so called "memory group". Everyday objects and food were used to bring up discussions. Now the group discusses important matters of everyday life with the goal of easing the participants' integration in the society. The participants prepare the topic of the day in advance.

The library has gained a lot from the cooperation with the language school, which made it possible to realize the idea of an immigrant group of this kind. As many of the participants of the group now attend the library regularly, the library has got new users.

The cooperation is valuable not only to the library, but also to the language school. The participation in the group has appeared to have a significant impact on the educational activities. The motivation, both among students and teachers, has increased. According to the teachers, it is because the group meetings at the library provide an arena outside the classroom.

The participants have gained more self confidence, are no longer reluctant to do homework, and have improved their language skills.

The immigrant group at Torshov is part of a larger research project, the PLACE project. Public libraries – Arenas for Citizenship (PLACE) is a research project based at the faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science of the Oslo University College.

Love of Reading and Language Development

Paper presented by Anne Berit Helland, Bergen Library – Thursday 25th of August.

Anne Berit Helland talked about the project *Love of Reading and Language Development*. The aim of the project was to strengthen the language- and reading skills among people that did not have Norwegian as a mother tongue. Norway's five biggest libraries Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger and Kristiansand each had their own project which represented different activities, project strategies, work methods and target groups.

Paper Session III

Online Homework: Using New Technology to support Integration

Paper presented by Anne Vest Hansen, The State and University Library – 25th of August.

Anne Vest Hansen presented the project: Online Homework, a three-year development project, financed by political means from the Danish state running since 2009 up to the current.

The project is an online homework service primary targeted at students between the 6th and 10th grade, living in so-called deprived residential areas. A main purpose of the project is to support students from second-generation immigrant families, with low income to successfully get through the education system.

The homework helpers are all volunteers and there are currently around 100 involved. They work from a call center placed at The State and University Library in Aarhus. The homework helpers talk to the students through the IT platform www.lektier-online.dk.

Online Homework offers online homework help from 17-20 o'clock, five evenings a week. 3600 pupils have a user profile on www.lektier-online.dk. Around 25-40 young people log in and receive help every day the site is open.

BibZoom.dk/World: The World's first Digital Library with an Ethnic Focus

Paper presented by Susanne Bodil Hodges, The Danish Library Centre for Integration– Thursday 25th of August.

Susanne Bodil Hodges describes the content at the net service BibZoom.dk/World. World is a sub side under the digital music service BibZoom.dk.

World offers music, films, e-books, reviews and recommendations in the five immigrant languages: Persian, Arabian, Turkish, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Urdu/Panjabi/Hindi.

World is the first digital library services with a focus on material in ethnic minority languages. The movies and music on the side is bought in physical copies on book markets in counties like Egypt and Iran. The CD and movies are shipped home, digitalized and uploaded on the site. E-books are also offered on the side, but they are still difficult to obtain in the five focus languages.

The future plans for world is to do more marketing towards the main target group, ethnic minority Danes, and involve the users more actively, by for example recruiting volunteers reviewers to write on the site.

The International Library On-line

Paper presented by Anna Gustafsson Chen – Thursday 25th of August.

Anna Gustafsson Chen from The International Library of Stockholm, chose to change the initial focus on the library's online communication and services, and focus the session about the library's diverse staff and the importance of this compared to the users.

The sex ratio at The International Library of Stockholm is 50/50, half of the employees are from other countries or cultures and together they speak twenty different languages. The library has learned that this unique combination of the staff has led to a higher degree of identification amongst the users and at the same time has given the library a much better platform to get insight in their users wises. She also talked about how the library wish to get more ethnic mixed librarians, which has resulted in a discussion about which qualifications that would be relevant for a Liberian and in a library.