

Summery from meeting in Nordic Library Network May 8 at Tingbjerg Bibliotek og Kulturhus, Copenhagen

There was 45 participants from the Nordic countries at the meeting, and they started the day with presentations in plenum and thereafter in groups.

Melanie Holst from Roskilde Bibliotekerne (DK) told about the project 'A million stories'. See more about the project here: : <http://refugeelives.eu/>

With the A Million Stories project, Roskilde Libraries have collected Europe's largest online collection of unedited life stories from people fled from war. The more than 650 stories have been collected in Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Greece. If you would like to include refugee stories, from your library's neighborhood, you are very welcome to contact project manager Melanie Holst, at melanieh@roskilde.dk who will guide you through the process.

Experience from Roskilde and other projects shows that it is very important that knowledge is shared so that projects can become part of the daily operations at libraries.

Silje Eikemo Sande, Kemê Pellicer and Nadia Abraham told about Critical friends. Silje gave a presentation of the Nordic project "Inkluderende kulturliv i Norden", and the resource network critical friends. A conference will be held 2 - 3 December in Oslo and an invitation will be sent out in the network.

Then Silje asked Kemê and Nadia about their background and participation in critical friends. It is important to remember that minorities are not a homogeneous group but very different. It is important to involve the target group in actions and to pay them for their work. It is recognition of skills.

After lunch there was a guided tour at 'Tingbjerg Bibliotek og Kulturhus'.

Oddbjørn Hansen told about the gathering of experiences with Language cafes in Norway. First, Oddbjørn told about the Multilingual Library and the situation in Norway. The languages urdu and vietnamese are on their way out of the top 15 in norway, while somali is increasing. Norway is experiencing many new Turkish asylum seekers, and the development are followed closely. The Multilingual Library has collected experiences on language cafes by sending out a survey to all public libraries. They would like more stories from the Nordic countries on the website, so please send info to Oddbjørn.

Oddbjørn also told about Veronica Salina's work. The literature can break down barriers. The libraries must be guided in how and which books can be used with advantage in language cafes.

Marit Vestlie told about the Nordic project on digital materials for linguistic minorities. Marit is project manager for The Nordic Library Project, funded by The Nordic Ministry of Culture and

organized and run by the National libraries in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The National Library of Norway coordinates the project.

The three Nordic partners is the International Library (IB) in Sweden, the Multilingual Library (DFB) in Norway (a division of The National Library of Norway), and the Danish Library Centre for Integration (part of the Royal Danish Library).

The project period is 3 years 2016-2019. The purpose of the project is to provide digital materials e-books and audio books for linguistic minorities. The project focuses on the languages Arabic, Persian, Tigrinya, Somali and Croatian. 700 materials have been purchased.

The digital materials are purchased and prepared jointly, in addition Sweden, Denmark and Norway share the platform where the materials are made available. The project received is about to be completed now and agreements are made on the future operation. In Sweden, however, Malmö City Library has received funding of DKK 5.2 million to further develop the platform and buy more materials.

In the future, there will be a focus on obtaining more digital materials and in several languages.

Kemê Pellicer and Nadia Abraham told about their observations and gave the network feedback.

It is important to have more:

- Dialogue in the network and at the libraries
- The target group must be involved
- When minorities contribute, they must be paid

The next meeting will be held in Helsinki in november 2019.

A final date will be announced as soon as possible, but the meeting will be held in week 46.

Suggested topics: workshop with Kemê Pellicer, the future of the network, guided tour at the new city library in Helsinki, Veronica Salinas and Ahmad Jourmaa (an integration strategy for the public libraries).

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