

June 2014

MANDATE: NORDIC BEST PRACTICE NETWORK ON MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICE

Knowledge sharing, innovative partnerships and new funding opportunities.

Background

The Nordic countries are in many ways unique internationally in their high level and quality of library services. We are furthermore all relatively small countries that have experienced significant immigration and demographic changes over the past decades. The cultural, educational and lingual backgrounds of newcomers to our societies are both varied and continuously changing. This creates the need for a new focus and strategy for local and national libraries.

The multicultural strategies and projects we are all developing nationally could undoubtedly be of interest to other libraries in neighbouring countries, and the benefits of such collaboration and networking are obvious. Furthermore, there is a relatively unexplored potential for access to Nordic funding opportunities.

Opportunities

There are a range of opportunities for cooperation arising from the Nordic Best Practice Network:

- Establish creative partnerships and opportunities for shared projects, conference cooperation, study trips and fundraising
- Share knowledge and best practice within the field of integration, intercultural communication and multicultural library services
- Joint acquisitions programmes – taking advantage of local expertise and better pricing
- Strengthen Nordic library awareness in terms of being up to date with regional capacities & expertise, newest initiatives, best practices and latest tendencies
- Promote “crossing borders”: customising and mainstreaming successful and trendsetting projects

Network meetings

The network activities can consist of meetings in the various member countries, including:

- ‘Speed dating’ sessions focusing on project cooperation and shared fundraising opportunities
- Best Practice meetings – knowledge sharing
- Co-organised seminars and conferences with invited key note speakers
- Project meetings regarding joint projects
- Management of joint projects

- Study trips and excursions providing insight and inspiration from the variety of library and community projects around the Nordic countries
- Sharing and marketing of seminars, study trips and other events or relevant research in national library networks

24. juni 2014
Side 2/2

Bi-annual Nordic Library Conference

The steering committee aims to organize and facilitate a bi-annual conference to be held in Norway, Sweden and Denmark focusing on all aspects of multicultural library services.

Network libraries

The network is initiated by the national libraries, and they also act as the steering committee of the network. Statsbiblioteket furthermore acts as the network coordinator also providing a network secretary.

The core members of the network are the national libraries and the three national immigrant libraries in the respective countries.

The network is open to all other public libraries in the Nordic countries and the network participants will all work to promote the network in their various national and local library networks.

- Nasjonalbiblioteket, Oslo - N
- Kungliga Biblioteket, Stockholm - S
- National and University Library of Iceland, Reykjavik (passive member)
- Statsbiblioteket, Aarhus - DK
- Internationella Biblioteket , Stockholm - S
- BiblioteksCenter for Integration, København - DK
- Det Flerspråklige Bibliotek, Oslo – N
- Helsinki City Library, Helsinki – FI
- Reykjavík City Library, Reykjavik – IS

Practicalities and finances

Network membership is free, but members will finance their own participation in network seminars, meetings and projects etc. Regular attendance is required of steering committee members.