

September 2012

Mandate: Nordic Best Practise 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 EU funding opportunities, which could be developed in the framework of a pan-Nordic partnership.

Aims

The aims of the Nordic Best Practice Network are:

- Establish creative partnerships and opportunities for shared projects, conference cooperation 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
- Arrange a conference to be held in Norway, Sweden and Denmark by turn every year or every two year

Network meetings

The network activities will mainly 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

Network members

16. oktober 2012
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The network is initiated by the national libraries, and they also act as Board of the network. Statsbiblioteket furthermore act as 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.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Marit Vestlie | Nasjonalbiblioteket - N |
| • Grete Bergh | Nasjonalbiblioteket - N |
| • Christina Jönsson Adrial | Kungliga Biblioteket - S |
| • Elin Lucassi (vikar for Christina) | Kungliga Biblioteket - S |
| • Flemming Munch | Statsbiblioteket - DK |
| • Nicola Ravden | Statsbiblioteket - DK |
| • Vibeke Nielsen (secretary) | Statsbiblioteket - DK |
| • Larry Lempert | Internationella Biblioteket |
| • Eva Fahnøe Buch | BiblioteksCenter for Integration - DK |
| • Siri Tidemann-Andersen | Det Flerspråklige Bibliotek – N |
| • Riitta Hämäläinen | Helsinki City Library – FI |
| • Antti Mäkinen | Helsinki City Library – FI |
| • Pálína Magnúsdóttir borgarbókavörður | Reykjavík City Library – IS |
| • Kristín Rannveig Vilhjálmsdóttir | Reykjavík City Library – IS |

Practicalities and finances

Network membership is free, but members will finance their own participation in network seminars, meetings and projects etc.