

Network of Nordic Public Libraries

Application for Nordic Culture Point, August 2009 translated February 2011.

Project Description:

The Network of Nordic Public Libraries consists of the public libraries; Helsinki City Library, Iceland (Borgarbókasafn Reykjavíkur, Bókasafn Kópavogs and Amtsbókasafnið á Akureyri), Oslo Public Library (Deichmanske), Stockholm Public Library (Stadsbiblioteket) and Aarhus Public Libraries.

The purpose of the Network of Nordic Public Libraries is to strengthen a shared Nordic understanding, culture, and tone about libraries and innovative culture between seven Nordic public libraries, who are concentrating on innovation, citizen involvement, learning, technology, networking, and the development of the role of the libraries as a cultural education institution and a democratic space in society.

The project will focus on working in the crossroads between the three following focus areas:

- A) Innovation & Library Development at the Strategic Level.
- B) Development of Ideas and Competencies (Knowledge, Abilities & Attitudes) at Staff Level and the Buildup of Networking Relations between 5 Nordic Public Libraries.
- C) Mediation of the Strategies of the Network, Methods and Ideas for Library Development in Other Library Networks and Environments; National, Nordic, and International.

A) Innovation & Library Development at the Strategic Level

The network is initiated by the strategic management level in the five public library organizations. The starting point is thus a shared Nordic strategic perspective. Hereby, we also ensure the political and resource-oriented framework that is needed for the network to grow and develop innovative and relevant contributions for library development in the North.

B) Development of Ideas and Competencies (Knowledge, Abilities & Attitudes) at Staff Level and the Buildup of Networking Relations between 5 Nordic Public Libraries

The Network of Nordic Public Libraries want to contribute to the renewal of Nordic library concepts on the basis of the co-workers' exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience.

The purpose of the project strategy is that knowledge and learning needs to be exchanged in communication between co-workers, who meet in "the real world". Experience and research show that learning in virtual networks has a limit. It is only when people meet in real life that a durable basis for learning and co-operation is built.

Professional relations that take off in creative and personal meetings are to provide the foundation for further dialogue about strategies, tendencies and new projects. During a three year period, the project will stage and hold three innovation camps.

The three camps will be held in three countries: Sweden (2010), Iceland (2011), and Norway (2012). There will be study trips to special libraries and/or cultural institutions in relation to

the three camps. Hereby, a shared frame of reference, inspiration, and new knowledge about library, as well as cultural, development in the Nordic countries is ensured.

In each camp, there will be up to 10 participants from each project partner. By doing this, we ensure cooperation that has time for exchanging and continuing the development of ideas for a lot of co-workers from each country. This way, it is avoided that the project falls flat on its nose because of co-workers, who might leave the project because of change of jobs.

The relations will become so deeply rooted that there is time and trust for new project ideas to develop and stem from the network.

C) Mediation of the Strategies of the Network, Methods and Ideas for Library Development in Other Library Networks and Environments; national, Nordic, and international

Introductory presentations, discussions and idea presentations are documented on an open and interactive wiki including pictures and film to mediate the project results to other Nordic libraries and other interested parties, and encourage these to participate in inspiring and putting the results into perspective. The network wiki must invite to participation and debate and put the results of the network, in the form of methods, strategies and ideas on library development, into perspective.

Organization: Each network partner has an important role in the network. The responsibility for the practical organization of the three camps plus study trips is taken by the local network partner (Stockholm, Iceland, and Oslo). Helsinki has the responsibility of developing the wiki and record film. Project management and administration is done by Aarhus Public Libraries.

Field of Art:

Other, what? (Libraries)

Estimated Start Date: 01.01.2010

Estimated Completion Date: 31.12.2012

Describe the main idea behind the network

Nordic public libraries are under pressure from many points; the financial resources are reduced, the citizens' needs for information and culture & media habits are going through drastic changes, and European and global cultural influence has great influence on the media image as well as library development. The Nordic library tradition, which builds upon democratic values, is essential as foundation for the public libraries. However, there is a need to renew and re-tell the foundation for Nordic libraries – along with younger employees, who work with the development of new cultural activities, services, design of learning environments and the use of technology. Where are the shared Nordic threads in the Nordic public libraries of the future? And how can the Nordic public libraries strengthen and inspire each other?

The network is to contribute to the innovation of the Nordic libraries of the future, and will work for a shared Nordic use-value.

We need to become more knowledgeable about how we can develop the Nordic democratic library tradition and become co-creators of a shared Nordic interpretation of the library concept.

To do this, it is necessary that the innovation employees know each other across the Nordic libraries in order to raise the bar for the shared Nordic perspective. The Network of Nordic Public Libraries is to establish and grow professional relations between key employees and future leaders across seven strong Nordic public libraries.

Describe the Nordic, Baltic, European and/or international relevance of the network

When the Nordic public library leaders participate in various European and international conferences and projects, a great interest in learning from the Nordic libraries is experienced from the international library environment. At the same time, we experience a need for discussing and clarifying the shared Nordic library foundation in a world that is undergoing fast and dramatic changes.

In what way is the main idea of the network new/innovative?

The project is innovative, because it involves and builds upon the co-workers' participation in the re-telling of the Nordic public library foundation. The employees participate in the formulation of the burning questions; in the network – about the challenges, methods and solutions via planning and participation in camps and the follow-up, where the field is opened for the creation of innovation projects across the Nordic libraries.

List institutions/persons who are part of the network

Iceland:

Borgarbókasafn Reykjavíkur: Anna Torfadóttir, anna.torfadottir@reykjavik.is

Bókasafn Kópavogs: Hrafn Harðarson, hrafnh@kopavogur.is

Amtsbókasafnið á Akureyri: Hólmkell Hreinsson, holmkell@akureyri.is

Oslo Public Library (Deichmanske), Contacts: Siri Brødsholt – [si-ri.brodsholt@kul.oslo.kommune.no](mailto:siri.brodsholt@kul.oslo.kommune.no), Mette Rysjedal – mette.rysjedal@kul.osle.kommune.no

Helsinki City Library, Contacts: Kristina Virtanen, Project Manager – “Internationalla Ärenden” – Kristina.virtanen@hel.fi

Stockholm Public Library, Contacts: Inga Lunden, Director of Stockholm Public Library – inga.lunden@kultur.stockholm.se, Johanna Hansson, Manager of the City Library Unit – Johanna.hansson@kultur.stockholm.se & Alice Thorburn – alice.thorburn@kultur.stockholm.se

Aarhus Public Libraries, Contacts: Knud Schulz, Director of the Main Library – ksc@aarhus.dk & Lotte Duwe Nielsen, Senior Project Manager – ldn@aarhus.dk

How does these partners contribute to the network?

Each project partner contributes with a representative in the group that plans camps. In the planning group, ideas and knowledge will be exchanged across the network in the time between the three camps.

It is probable that some participants will change during this time period, but it is of crucial significance for the network that there is a representative from each project partner in the group

through all three project years in order to strengthen the personal and professional relations via the work in the planning group.

In 2010, Stockholm Public Library is responsible for location management of the camp and the planning of study trips for the participants to three or four significant libraries and/or cultural institutions.

In 2011, Iceland is responsible for location management of the camp and the planning of study trips for the participants to three or four significant libraries and/or cultural institutions.

In 2012, Oslo is responsible for location management of the camp and the planning of study trips for the participants to three or four significant libraries and/or cultural institutions.

Helsinki City Library has the responsibility of developing the network's interactive wiki (in which all project partners has the responsibility for editing and documenting the work that is being done) and mediate the network's work in small films.

Aarhus Public Libraries handles project management and the administration of the network.

The network's organization thus builds upon a principle that all project partners has a crucially important role in making the network function.

Which Nordic countries and autonomous areas participate in the project?

- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden

Which Baltic countries participate in the project?

N/A

Which other countries participate in the project?

N/A

Have the partners co-worked earlier? How?

The public libraries in Iceland, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and Aarhus have had close relations with each other for a long time, especially on the managerial level. The project partners also know each other from different projects, where two or three of the project partners have participated. However, we have never been gathered at the same time in this exact setup with all five project partners, and we have not previously gathered co-worker across these Nordic public libraries in a long term cooperation or network.

How will the network communicate its aims, strategies and results?

The network will create an interactive wiki that mediates goals, strategies, work methods, presentations, pictures, small films and contact information, so that others can contact the network. All participants in the network and camps will contribute to the content. The wiki will facilitate dialogue and the sharing of knowledge across the network in the time between the three camps, and at the same time it will document new ideas on Nordic library development.

How will the network disseminate its results and outcomes?

Each country/project partner will write an article in a professional library magazine in each country after each camp. This becomes three articles in each country; a total of fifteen articles.

The network commits itself to mediate the network's results in conference presentations; at national conferences and other European and international conferences. The network will send papers to the International IFLA-conference in Göteborg 2010 and to IFLA Helsinki 2012.

The network participants will spread the creative methods and learning processes, which are developed in the network, at other meetings and conferences. This will influence citizen involvement, employee development and innovation processes in the network's organizations and their relations.

The network's discussions and reflections on the Nordic library concept will be a part of the POLICY-WORK that the seven libraries are involved in – locally, regionally, Nordic, European and internationally.

Financing:

Comments on the budget:

We have chosen to draw up the budget based on current prices and rates of exchange. However, it is difficult to predict changing rates of exchange on ISK, NOK, SEK, DKK and EUR. It might be necessary to reduce the self-financing, depending on the economic development and changing exchange rates.

A contribution (if applicable) from Nordic Culture Point will always cover no more than 50% of the total budget of the project. Administrative costs cover project management and accounting.

Additional Information:

Information Strategy:

The network will create an interactive wiki, which mediates goals, strategies, creative methods for idea development, presentations, pictures, film clips and contact information, so that others may contact the network. All participants in the network and camps will contribute to the content.

The wiki will facilitate dialogue and the sharing of knowledge across the network in the time between the three camps and will, at the same time, document the co-operation across the Nordic network via:

- An article in a professional library magazine in each country after each camp, at least three articles in each country, a total of fifteen articles.
- Posts and comments on blogs and other professional networks.
- Conference presentations and workshops that demonstrate the Nordic co-operation; at national conferences and other European and international conferences. The network will make the Nordic co-operation and network visible globally and will, among other things, send papers to the international IFLA-conference in Göteborg 2010 and to IFLA in Helsinki 2012.

The network participants will spread the creative methods and learning processes, which are developed in the network, at other meetings and conferences. This will influence citizen involvement, employee development and innovation processes in the network's organizations and their relations.

The new perspectives of the network on the Nordic library concept and Nordic co-operation will be a part of the POLICY-WORK that the seven partners are involved in – locally, regionally, Nordic, European, and internationally.