

Library Innovation – Network of Nordic Public Libraries



Network of Nordic Public Libraries, First Library Innovation Camp in Iceland, June 2010

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Libraries in Networks: Creating, Participating, Co-operating
IFLA Public Library Section - Satellite Conference: 8 - 9 August 2012 in Klaipeda, Lithuania
http://www.lbd.lt/?page_id=368

Abstract:

The presentation will introduce the network of libraries that aims at rethinking the role and strategies for the public libraries in the future societies in the Nordic countries in a global context.

The presentation will be interactive and will introduce and involve the attendees at the Satellite Conference in some of the co-creative methods of the Innovation Camps.

Co-Creating Library Innovation – Network of Nordic Public Libraries

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 library innovators, 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 and share inspiration internationally?

The Network of Nordic Public Libraries is on working in the crossroads between three main 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

Library Innovation Boot Camps is the core activity. At least 50 innovators from the 7 project partners in Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark meet for 36 hour boot camps to share ideas and experiences by co-creating new ideas, concepts and strategies.

Innovation, networks & partnerships, citizen involvement, learning, technology and the development of the role of the libraries as a cultural education institution and a democratic space in society are some of the themes we work on.

The Network 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.

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So far the network has done 2 boot camps: Reykjavik 2010 and Stockholm 2011.

We are currently preparing the 3rd boot camp in Oslo September 2012.

The output of this 3rd camp will be a strategic paper including the challenges and recommendations for the public libraries.

The 7 project partners in Network of Nordic Public Libraries are:

Reykjavik City Library, Iceland

Kópavogur Public Library, Iceland

The Municipal Library of Akureyri, Iceland

Deichmanske bibliotek / Oslo Public Library, Norway

Helsinki City Library, Finland

Stockholm City Library, Sweden

Aarhus Public Libraries, Denmark

The Network is funded by Culture Point North, Nordic Council of Ministers.

Further info about Network of Nordic Public Libraries, program, presentations, films, concepts and fotos from the innovation camps: <https://nordiccamps.ning.com/>

The format of the presentation at the satellite meeting involves the attendees in co-creating the trends for modern libraries of the future. The attendees will experience examples of the working methods from the Nordic Library Boot Camps.