

Notations from the first meeting between representatives of combined libraries held in Härnösand 29-30 of November 2005

Introduction

County librarian Roland Tiger started the “lunch-to-lunch-meeting” by bidding all the participants welcome to Härnösand and Sambiblioteket, the combined library of the town.

All representatives introduced themselves and said something about their libraries and their own special responsibilities.

A complete list of all participants is included at the end of this document.

The different libraries and library projects presented their planning processes, visions, buildings, activities, statistics etc.

Almedalsbiblioteket



First to show their PowerPoint-presentation was *Almedalsbiblioteket* from Visby. The director Kerstin Simberg pointed out that they called themselves an integrated library and that we could discuss the difference between an integrated and a combined library further on, when discussing organizational questions.

The city of Visby is situated on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. Approximately half of the islands 57.000 inhabitants are living in Visby. The University of Gotland has 4.000 students (of which 2.000 are distant students). Science & technology, economics & social sciences, humanistic perspectives are the main subject within an interdisciplinary education model. Many short courses and few researchers.

The library has “two heads”, the municipality and the state (represented by the university). The university pays 3/8 of the library costs and the municipality 5/8.

Almedalsbiblioteket has 43 employees (32 from the Municipality Library, 8 from the University Library and 3 from the County Library of Gotland). The director is paid 50% of the university and the municipality library.

Beside *Almedalsbiblioteket* there is 9 branch libraries on the island. The municipality is responsible for these libraries but of course there are good cooperation between the branches and *Almedalsbiblioteket*.

“To help or to teach?” – Kerstin talked about the different cultures and old traditions which may cause problems when integrating public and university libraries.

“You must not say we and them” referring to the colleagues of the library.

Today you also have to face changing ways of working. They are taking the conventional information desks away in *Almedalsbiblioteket*. Instead you will find info-points with librarians working more close to the visitors.

Kerstin also spoke about the library as a meeting place for the visitors, a house full of experiences, cultural programs and exhibitions.

Today there is a municipal Learning Centre within the library building, but the aim is to create a Learning Resource Centre where also the students and teachers of the University of Gotland are participating.

The service to distance students is expensive but still has to develop.

“What have we gained from working together?”

- The competence of the library staff have increased.
- The cultural life of the town has come closer to the students.
- The public has come closer to the university with possibilities to visit open lectures.

And the problems...?

- Different cultures as mentioned above.
- Different salaries and benefits. The status question.
- Noisy children may disturb the students.

Sambiblioteket

Then Roland Tiger presented *Sambiblioteket*.

Sambiblioteket is situated in Härnösand, one of 7 municipalities in the county of Västernorrland. The county has approx. 250.0000 inhabitants and Härnösand 25.000.

In Härnösand you find one of the Mid Sweden University campus. The university is a network university in four different cities. 14.000 students of which you will find 3.000 in Härnösand (half of these are distant students).



Sambiblioteket

Sambiblioteket is a combined library where the three organizations; the public library, the university library and the county library, are working in the same buildings as separate organizations, but integrating media resources, library system and regulations, in the way that the visitor will see the library as a whole. In *Sambiblioteket* you will also find a studio for the local radio, a café, a book shop, the city consumer advisor and the city energy advisor. The house is planning for the start of a Learning Resource Centre.

The idea of the combined library has good support, both within the officials of three different organizations and from the public.

Roland talked (as Kerstin Simberg also did) about the focus of lifelong learning today, bringing the different types of libraries closer, about the role of the library as a meeting place, about the differences in salaries and benefits comparing the different organizations and the different cultures and traditions between them.

In *Sambiblioteket* there is a management group consisting of the three directors meeting every Monday. The meetings are open and at these meetings the daily working process of the library is discussed and confirmed.

The visions and main objectives of the library are questions of the Advisory Board, with representation from the Municipality, the University and the County. Also the library, the students and the public are represented.

Some figures:

- Area - 8.600 square metres
- Visitors – 390.000/year
- Volumes – 350.000
- Loan – 200.000/year

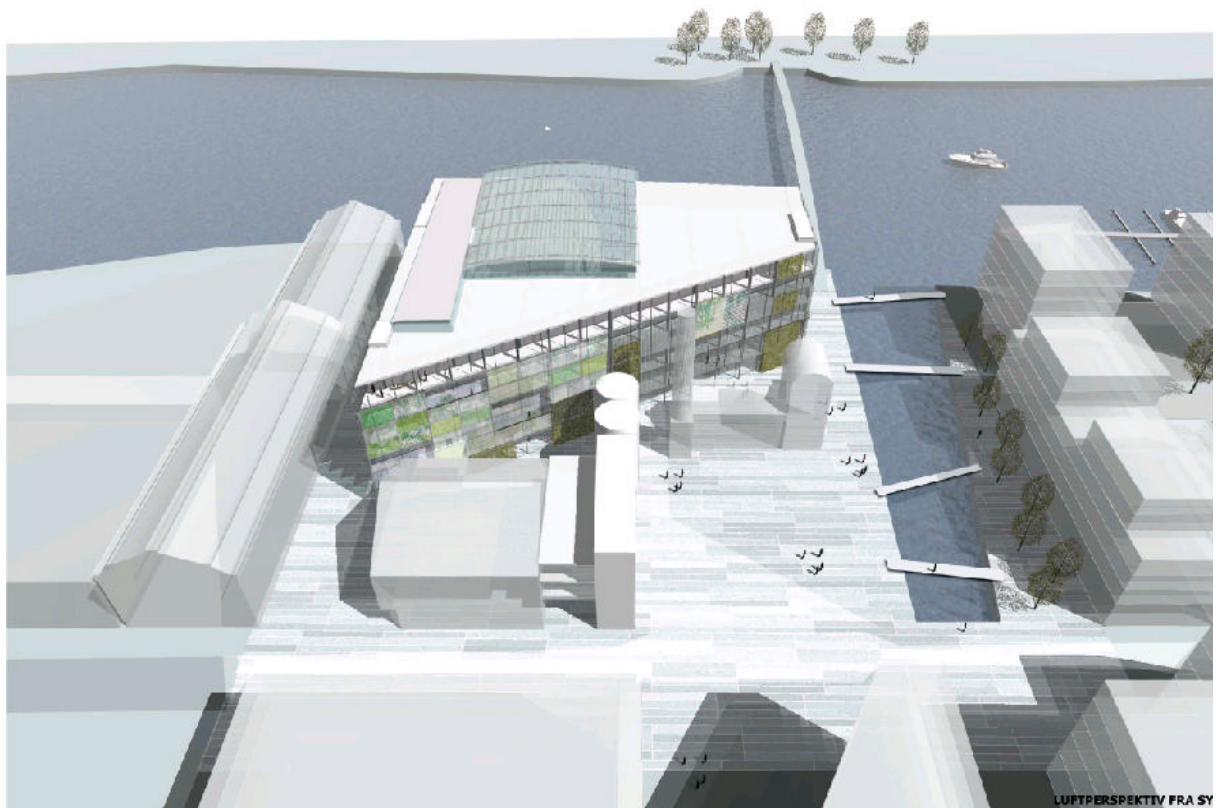
“What have we gained from working together?”

- The competence of the library staff have increased.
- Increased media stock.
- Modern network and network service.
- “The house itself”.
- Number of databases.
- Cooperation within the house and with other organizations is strengthen.

And the problems...?

- Cooperation is time consuming.
- Heavy organization.
- Library system must be very flexible. Takes a lot of time managing.
- Sometime one for all, sometimes each his own.
- Cost (not a money-saving project).

Papirbredden



Papirbredden, Drammen

*Anne Stenhammer, director college library
Sølvi Tellefsen, director municipal library*

Dag Østern, municipal of Drammen

Anne, Sölvi and Dag informed the meeting about the project Papirbredden, the new integrated library in Drammen.

The municipality of Drammen has since 1994 in cooperation with operators within the field of education developed Drammen College Center (DHS) which can provide higher education with suitable and attractive premises. DHS has also been an active part in shaping the Drammen knowledge park. which represents a new phase in the towns educational development with a regional perspective and a wider field of cooperation between business representatives, the college system, R&D environments and the public sector.

The strategic goals are to raise the level of competence in different areas and to promote economic growth. One of the main efforts in that direction is the planning of the integrated library/knowledge park, Papirbredden. The name refers to local industrial history. The site of Papirbredden was once the location of an old paper mill.

The distinction of Papirbredden will be openness and cooperation with local business, the public sector and the inhabitants of Drammen. Papirbredden also aims at promoting an active environment for students which will develop Drammen as a town and part of the region.

Drammen has during recent years invested in projects that will develop the axis (along the town bridge) that connects the main attractions on both sides of the river that flows through the town center. Papirbredden is an important part of Drammens town development strategy. The cultural area Union Scene close to the new library will strengthen the town center as a cultural meetingplace.

Papirbredden – Drammen knowledge park consists of ...

The college of Buskerud and the college library

The college of Telemark

Drammen public library

The regional library of Buskerud

office premises for business development

Career center

Bookshop

Café

Target groups

Inhabitants of Drammen (55.000)

120 000 inhabitants in the region

Students, teachers, researchers and employees at the college of Buskerud and Telemark, the business school of Buskerud (a total of 1 250 persons)

Regional enterprise

A new integrated library in Drammen

An integrated/combined library/learning center within one building that represents cooperation across administrative and institutional boundaries, representing an innovative approach to library development on a national scale in Norway.

Area: About 5500 m² (netto 4 131 m² plus areas for offices, meeting rooms etc 1 243 m²)

3 stories out of seven

50 employees

From crowded areas to solitary contemplation

First floor : Main entrance
 Children's department
 Automat for returning books???

Second floor: Culture
 Fiction, categorized

Third floor : Non-fiction
 Special collections

Papirbredden – a national library-development project

The project has received grants from ABM-utvikling who regards Papirbredden as a project of national importance.

Objects:

Integration of municipal, regional- and college library – seamless integration of services across organizational levels and boundaries.

A three year-project.

Grants 2005: 380.000

ABM-utvikling wishes that the project will focus on...

- seamless libraryservices in a seamless library
- how integration will effect the quality of service
- the question of equivalence of services offered
- the question of whether electronic magazines and data bases can be available to all - categories of library visitors
- the regional library's roll within the integrated library

In preparation for the opening day

Papirbredden will be ready to welcome its tenants at the end of 2006.
All library employees are engaged in planning for the integrated library.

There are combined library staff meetings once a month and there are joint seminars being held. Opportunity for staff members to practise at the other libraries can be arranged.

The competence of each staff member has been surveyed.

Joint work groups are formed to prepare for...

- joint media collections
- How the library IT-systems can work together /a virtual library catalogue for the users
- Loans/interlibrary loans
- library management on a day to day basis

Key objects

To be successful we must consider the following aspects:

- leadership and management
- efficiency
- quality of service
- economy
- competence

Valmiera Integrated library



Valmiera Integrated library is a long-term cooperation with the establishment of a new regional higher educational establishment (the first 100 students in 1996, 1 327 students in 2005) in Valmiera (population 28 000). In 1998 Valmiera Information centre was opened, which combined and merged the informational and human resources of Vidzeme University College (VUC) library and Valmiera library Study and reference reading-room. Sonja, Queen of Norway, was among the opening ceremony guests.

1998-2005

- Creation and development of VUC and Valmiera library integrated computer network
- Merging of VUC and Valmiera library electronic databases
- Creation of joint users' register

- Beginning of automated lending in VUC library and Valmiera library reading-room
- VUC library has acquired a status of World Tourism Organization Depository library
- Establishment of EUROPE DIRECT information network point in Valmiera
- In 2005 the 1st part of the building reconstruction has been implemented. In 2007 Valmiera Integrated library new premises will receive the first visitors.

Valmiera Integrated library goals

- Providing access to knowledge, to raise the life quality of Valmiera population, to promote the development of the region and to participate in creation of culture environment.
- To provide VUC students and faculty with informational services relevant to the academic process
- To promote interaction of the academic environment and the local society, providing the environment and preconditions of innovative life-long education
- To promote recognizability and competitiveness Vidzeme region on international scale.

The integrated library tasks

- To provide the inhabitants with support in acquiring general and academic education and life-long learning
- To provide the inhabitants, local governments and other organizations with universal informational service
- To provide library users the access to the national and world culture heritage
- Being a society communication centre, to promote the public interaction and integration among various social groups
- Participating in State Integrated Library Information System, to develop information Exchange among the libraries both in Latvia and abroad
- To develop service for remote patrons
- To develop services for children and young , emphasizing reading promotion, social functioning and educating children as good library users
- To create a joint information network with other institutions of historical memory and culture in the region- Valmiera district museums, to participate in digitation of nationally and regionally significant culture heritage collections.

Resources

- Collections: Valmiera Library 90 176 items (2004), VUC library 14 430 items (2004)
- Periodicals: Valmiera library 96 titles (Latvian, Russian), VUC library 48 titles (Latvian, Russian, English)
- CD-ROM collection (mainly supplements of journals and course-books)
- Electronic full-text databases in Latvian and English: Baltic News Service + Baltic Business Service, news agency LETA archive and www.nozare.lv, www.eiropa.lv (information for professionals) electronic versions of the

newspapers “Diena bizness” Daily Business) and “Latvijas Vestnesis” (the official newspaper of Republic of Latvia), EBSCO. Valmiera library subscribes to the online database of Latvian legislation.

Vidzeme University College and Valmiera library cooperation provides VUC students and faculty with free access to

- An archive of periodicals published in Latvia 1990- present
- Valmiera city and district local history collection
- Thematic pressclippings collections prepared by Valmiera library
- EUROPE DIRECT information point resources
- English language centre library collection
- USA information centre Study information centre resources

Subjects for discussion within the network

Rounding off the first day of the network meeting there was an informal discussion about subjects or tasks for the network to discuss or undertake. The discussion continued the next day in group discussions.

Criteria of combined/joint use libraries

Statistics

Cooperation between library authorities in combined libraries

Organisation.

Question of balance and stability in a framework with more than one library authority

What is the purpose of creating a combined library?

The impact on society (part of town planning, part of educational goals, part of municipal strategies, economic growth)

Branding. Selling the idea

Can we take in other activities as equal parts in cooperation (a learning center or learning resource center)

Cooperation with commercial interests.

Summing up the meeting

(Kompletteras med Christinas anteckningar)

The network agreed on criteria of combined, joint or integrated libraries within the network.

Definition within the network of a combined/integrated library: A college or university library in cooperation with a public library or some other kind of library within the same library building. Libraries that fit the criteria are welcome to join the network.

Webpage

Valmiera is responsible for setting up a webpage for the network with the following address: <http://combib.lv>.

Key objects

Subjects the network will focus in the near future:

- Research on combined libraries
- Organization and management
- Staff competence development

Network meetings 2006-2008

Schedule for meetings the next three years:

2006 Visby (8-9th of June)

2007 Drammen

2008 Valmiera