N95-15929

20872

p. 3

109514

Gunnar Lager

Library Director

The Royal Institute of Technology
Valhallavagen 81
Stockholm
Sweden
Telephone:46-8-790-7080
FAX:46-8-790-7122
Internet:

The National Resource Library for Science and Technology in Sweden -- A Nordic Model of Cooperating Technology Libraries

SUMMARY

The scope of this presentation is to give a state-of-the-art on the present situation of Nordic technology libraries, to elaborate on a plan for national resource libraries in Sweden and to share with you how the Royal Institute of Technology Library in Stockholm (KTHB) has fostered a network of cooperating libraries in order to optimize government funding for the system of resource libraries.

I will give some thoughts on

- *a perspective on Nordic technological university libraries in science and technology*

All the larger Nordic countries have adopted a rather similar solution to the question of national library provision: a central national library, with distributed responsibility for various subjects and functions. The number of these libraries with a designated subject responsibility and the efficiency of the system vary from country to country. The theory behind them is obvious - to build on strength, and to develop collections where there are users, so that the libraries can serve both local and national users.

- *a Swedish system of national resource libraries*

Swedish university libraries are traditionally seen as open and free resources to everybody, although national services without a cost recovery basis have started to be questioned as a consequence of changes in governmental funding to universities. Due to these changes a system of six national resource libraries has been set up to guarantee a good quality of national library service.

- *"TeknologiBiblioteken" - the technology libraries in Sweden*

- *"TeknologiBiblioteken" - the technology libraries in Sweden*

KTHB was designated as having a national subject responsibility and decided to maintain and improve external services. Realizing there were several other technology libraries with excellence in services and holdings and of comparative size in the country, KTHB started a network of cooperation between the staff of these libraries. The characteristics of their acquisitions profiles cover a wide range of the natural sciences and technical sciences are complementary to a certain extent.

The Swedish technology libraries are

* Royal Institute of Technology Library (KTHB) in Stockholm, which will be further described in this paper as to acquisitions, products and services

* Studsvik Library, a branch library of KTHB, outside Nyköping

* Chalmers University of Technology Library (CTHB) in Gothenburg. Both Chalmers and KTHB have large collections in mathematics, physics and chemistry. Chalmers has a special collection in marine technology (KTHB having special collections in the history of science and technology)

* Linköping University Library, the Science and Technology Library, which represents a young university, has from its start made prominent acquisitions in computer science. It also has a good coverage of bio-sciences

* the Central Library of Luleå University College, with an acquisition profile in geo-technology and mining, technologies for arctic climate and industrial work

* Lund University Library, UB2, a central library for technology, science and medicine with collections in bio-sciences. Lund also has a compete collection of all Swedish publications in these subjects.

- *KTHB - the national resource library in science and technology*

The central library has a strong position in chemistry among the basic sciences. In addition to branch libraries covering electrical and electronics engineering and computer science, aviation technology and architecture, the Studsvik Library, which joined the organisation in the eighties, has more than 2 million technical reports and a special collection covering technologies of energy, nuclear science and environmental literature.

The library catalogue of today can be reached from the TEKLINE system over the campus network. The database is operated by the British LIBERTAS software. TEKLINE is found on the Internet outside KTH. The holdings can also be found in LIBRIS, the national bibliographic database.

Via the Information and Documentation Centre, online services are provided. Since many years IDC has represented ESA-IRS and STN (with CAS Online) in Sweden. Commissioned by the European Community as National Awareness Partner Centre, IDC gives advice on database searching and offers user seminars.

During the two last years our cost of periodical subscriptions has risen over 60% mainly because of the low value of the Swedish crown and the special mix of high-priced journals! We are thus changing our policy from being "a just in case" library to "a just in time library".

- *Conclusions from the first five years of working in a cooperating network of six libraries*

The very good relations we have established between the staffs of the six libraries are invaluable for promoting competence and for spreading ideas. Library users also benefit as the quality and output of services from the technology libraries are regionally well spread throughout Sweden.

About the Speaker

Mr. Gunnar Lager is Library Director of the Royal Institute of Technology Library (KTHB) since 1988 after a long time position in the Ericsson Group. He is this year leaving as president of the Swedish Society for Technical Documentation after ten years in its lead. In many years he has also been editor of the Nordic Journal of Documentation. In addition he has served on the board of NORDINFO and is presently engaged on the board of the LIBRIS system. Heading KTHB he is also responsible for running the programme of cooperation for the Swedish Technology Libraries. Gunnar Lager is an international member of IFLA, IATUL, ASLIB and SCOTUL.