PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE NORDIC WELFARE STATE – THE CHANGING ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NORSLIS course on public library research Uppsala September 29–October 3, 2008

All activities will take place at the Dept of ALM, Campus Engelska Parken, Thunbergsvägen 3H in Uppsala. Lunch will be served Tuesday–Friday at 12 in the campus restaurant “Matikum”. Coffee will be served every day in the morning and in the afternoon.

Monday 29th of September
Room: 2/0022 (will be open from 12.30).
13.00–13.15. Introduction and some practical information.
13.15–15.15 Keynote-lecture by Michael Buckland.
15.15–15.30 Coffee
15.30–16.00 Presentation and discussion of the Nordic-Baltic research programme Public libraries and the Nordic welfare states (Ragnar Audunson).
16.00–18.00 PhD-students present their individual dissertation topics and form project groups.

18.30– Dinner at the department’s lunch room and time for more informal conversation and discussions.

Tuesday 30th of September
Morning session in room 2/0024.
11.00–12.00 Time for project work discussions.

Afternoon session in room 2/0022.
16.00– Guided tour in the university library Carolina Rediviva. Responsible: librarian Christer Östlund.

**Wednesday first of October**

*Morning session in room 2/0076.*

9.00–12.00: “The Nordic Public Library Model: The Library as a Meeting Place for Democracy and Community Building”. Responsible: Ragnar Audunson.

*Afternoon session in room 6/K1031.*

13.30–16: Virtual lecture by Frank Huysmans on the Dutch public library research project that recently has been concluded, followed by a discussion.

16–18: Time for project work discussions.

**Thursday second of October**

*Morning session in room 2/0024.*

9.00–12.00 “The Nordic Public Library Model: The social capital perspective”. Responsible: Andreas Vårheim.

*Afternoon session in room 2/0077.*

13.00–16.00: “Discourse analytical perspectives on public library research”. Responsible Laura Skouvig.

16–18: Time for project work discussions.

19– Dinner at Kerstin’s home (Runstensgatan 3 in Uppsala).

**Friday third of October**

*Room 6/K1031.*

8.30–11.00 “Measuring the value and impact of public libraries”. Responsible: Svanhild Aabø

11.00–12.00 Summing up of the course and discussion about project work and examination.

*Room 2/0024.*

13.15–15 Åse Hedemark presents a preliminary version of her PHD-thesis *De offentliga samtalens bibliotek. Om mediedebatter och föreställningar kring folkbibliotek.* Specially invited reader: Laura Skouvig. Since this text is written in Swedish the seminar will be held in “Scandinavian” and is therefore not an official part of the Norslis-course. But you are all
welcome to join the seminar! After wine and snacks will be served at the department. Please contact Åse directly if you want a copy of her text (ase.hedemark@abm.uu.se).
Public libraries and the Nordic welfare state – the changing role of public libraries

Participants

Senior researchers

Professor Ragnar Audunson, Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science, Oslo University College; Norway. (Mon–Fri?) Ragnar.Audunson@jbi.hio.no

Professor emeritus Michael Buckland, School of Information, Berkely University, California. (Mon–Fri) buckland@ischool.berkeley.edu

Professor Frank Huysmans, senior researcher on media use and cultural participation at the Netherlands Institute for Social Research. (will hold a virtual lecture on Wednesday from Holland) f.huysmans@scp.nl

Associate professor Ilkka Mäkinen, Department of Information Studies, Tampere University, Finland. (Tue–Thu) Ilkka.Makinen@uta.fi

Associate professor Kerstin Rydbeck, Department of ALM, Uppsala University, Sweden. (Mon–Fri) kerstin.rydbeck@abm.uu.se

Associate professor Laura HC Skouvig, Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen, Denmark. (We–Fri) ls@db.dk

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**Externals**

Anette Eliasson, Head of Halland Regional Library, Halmstad, Sweden. (Mon–Fri) Anette.eliasson@regionhalland.se

Malin Ögland, library adviser at the Stockholm County Library, Sweden. (Mon–Fri) malin.ogland@kultur.stockholm.se
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As a background to the research on popular libraries in the Nordic countries, please take a short look at Johannsen, C.G. & Kajberg, L. (eds.). *New frontiers in public library research*. The book was the result of a seminar held in 2001 in Copenhagen about public library research in the Nordic countries. See also *Public libraries and the Nordic welfare states Platform paper for a Nordic-Baltic research programme* (May 2008). (Included as a pdf-file)

Michael Buckland


Buckland, Michael, ppt-presentation from the recent ISKO Conference in Montreal (2008): Can be downloaded from: http://metadata.sims.berkeley.edu/isko08.ppt


Ilkka Mäkinen

Mäkinen, Ilkka, “Public libraries and the welfare state: the case of Finland”, 30 pp. (*Included as a pdf-file*)


Laura Skouvig


Svanhild Aabø


Andreas Vårheim


**Ragnar Audunson**


**Frank Huysmans**


**Kerstin Rydbeck**


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Examination task – Research project application

The examination task is to write a fictive application for a new research project about public libraries. We suggest that you work in groups of two, but if you rather prefer to work alone that is also OK. You are expected to start working on your applications directly, during this week. Use the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss your ideas with the senior researchers in Uppsala, in connection to their sessions. But there is also special time reserved for this project work when you are supposed to give progress reports and we will have a short briefing on Friday. Hopefully the mayor part of the work could be done already before you leave Uppsala.

Instructions:

➤ The specific research topic of your application has to connect to one of the main themes presented in the platform paper Public libraries and the Nordic welfare states: 1. Public libraries, the welfare state and current social challenges, 2. Public libraries as information literacy educators, 3. Digitization.

➤ The application must give references to the course literature.

➤ You cannot use your own phd-dissertation topic for this fictive application!

➤ In your application you have to:

1. present the purpose of this new research project and discuss relevant research questions.
2. make an outline of the existing research within this specific field and discuss important results, with references to important works.
3. give a detailed presentation of how to accomplish this project, which includes a close discussion about theoretical framework and methodology.
4. Justify the importance of this research project.

➤ The text has to be written in English and must cover approximately 8 pages including references.

Please send your application to Kerstin.Rydbeck@abm.uu.se not later than the first of November. However, a first short outline (1 page) must be sent in already before the 10th of October.
Important criteria in our judgments of your proposed research projects will be:

1. The quality of the project. How feasible, reliable, and affordable would it be – or: how good is it?
2. The value of the project. How effective would the impact of the research be in relation to the concerns in the Platform paper – or: what good would it do?

When you are about to write research applications it is always a good idea to have a look at applications written by other researchers with more experience. Sometimes research financers publish approved applications on their websites, for example the Swedish Research Council (unfortunately in Swedish only): http://vrproj.vr.se/default.asp?funk=ax