

# **SWEDEN**

## **THE ROYAL LIBRARY – NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN**

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### **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004**

The traditional assignments of the Royal Library are to collect, describe, preserve, and provide access to all materials published in Sweden and those related to Sweden but published abroad. To a certain extent the same criteria apply to digital and web-based information. The Royal Library also serves as research library, primarily in the humanities and has extensive collections in the field. Other assignments include enhancing and increasing the efficiency of information provision for higher education and research and to develop the LIBRIS database, the union catalogue of Swedish libraries.

Beside the extensive and everyday work within these areas, the past year has also seen a survey of our current assignments commissioned by, and a report delivered to the Ministry of Education and Science in January, 2004. The Report is of the opinion that the Royal Library need to focus on major systems issues and information flow control requiring national coordination. The Report emphasizes the strategic importance of the Royal Library and libraries in general and its proposals suggest a strong foundation for development in the years ahead.

As the Report deals with the present situation and central issues over the next years it also dominates this year's CDNL-Report. The survey has been submitted for consideration by the parties concerned during the spring of 2004 and decisions regarding single issues are being arrived at. An eventual implementation of the recommendations constitutes a significant challenge in time to come. However, the Royal Library has begun, albeit on a smaller scale, to implement some of the recommendations given as important for the future. They are the following:

- The Report suggests an amendment to the Act of Legal Deposits with legal deposits of digitally transferred material. There is at present a developmental project at the Royal Library investigating the possibilities. There is also the continuing work of harvesting Swedish web-sites, which was implemented in 1997 (Kulturarw3).
- The Report recommends a digitisation on a larger scale regarding the material kept at the Royal Library and other institutions of cultural heritage. The Royal Library has already initiated a digitisation on a small-scale developmental project and launched an ALM (Archives, Libraries and Museums) collaboration focusing on this.
- The Report proposes a law relating to the protection of valuable book collections and individual books and suggest the Royal Library be appointed as supervisory committee.
- The Report supports the Secretariat for Preservation established in 2003, whose task is to supply information and give advice on matters related to the preservation of printed material. Through this initiative the Royal Library is taking an active part in the inventory and preservation of Sweden's book collections.
- The Report suggests that the union catalogue LIBRIS is developed so as to include a national library data system.

- The Report suggests that the Royal Library attain undivided responsibility for the coordination of information flow to education and research. The coordinative responsibility for research libraries and other national library assignments should also include supplementary parts of the public library sector.
- The Report suggests the setting up of Sweden's net libraries to alleviate coordinated searches and the construction of relevant electronic resources for higher education and research. The Royal Library/BIBSAM has initiated preliminary studies and planning is in process. The coordination and development of information flow to researchers and students is an undertaking that has been in process over several years via the work of a national consortium for electronic resources. In addition BIBSAM coordinates various developmental projects in the field of e-publishing, open access and e-reference services.
- The Report proposes increased support to research in library and information science. However, the Royal Library does not conduct its own research.
- The Report suggests that the Royal Library establish coordinative measures with other public authorities regarding to long-term preservation of digital material.

The above mentioned developing areas and the Report have claimed large stakes regarding the Royal Library over the past year. The consequences of which include organisational supervision. In addition to the above and the everyday running of matters the following should be mentioned:

The procurement of the LIBRIS national portal was concluded when signing contracts in June with Fujitsu for the system Metalib. Implementation will begin in August and the portal should be operational by January 2005. The portal constitutes an important part in the establishing of Sweden's net libraries.

A collaborative venture including the National Archives, the National Museum, the National Heritage Board, the National Council for Cultural Affairs and the Royal Library has established an ALM-Secretariat (Archives, Libraries and Museums), located at the Royal Library. Its assignment is to coordinate ventures within the ALM sphere, mainly in the area of digitisation.

The Swedish National Committee for Memory of the World have decided to nominate the extensive Astrid Lindgren Archives at the Royal Library, a documentary heritage containing correspondence from all parts of the world and a large number of manuscripts, to the UNESCO World Heritage list as a property of cultural importance and outstanding universal value.

The Royal Library is an active participant in international ventures. There is an extensive collaboration between the Nordic countries, involvement in European organisations such as LIBER, CENL, EBLIDA, CERL, ONE and participation in the various sectors of IFLA and the international standardisation efforts. Other engagements are the Alexandria Project and two projects aimed at developing the national libraries in Latin America.

A busy year at the Royal Library has also seen a change of National Librarian. Tomas Lidman resigned, after eight years as National Librarian of the Royal Library, on September 30, 2003 and was succeeded by Gunnar Sahlin.

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