

## **THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP**

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The Royal School of Librarianship is a national institution of education and research within the field of library and information science in Denmark. It belongs to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The activities of the school are regulated by law. The latest act was adopted by parliament in 1985. The school is the only institution in the country authorized to give formalized education and award degrees within the library field.

The school has its main department in Copenhagen where it has been situated since the school was established as an independent state institution in 1956, and it has a branch in the city of Aalborg since 1973.

The main activities of the school are: 1) Education of librarians, 2) Education of masters in library and information science, 3) Continuing education, including education of research librarians and library assistants, 4) Research and development, 5) Consultancy.

### **1. Education of librarians**

Formalized education of librarians has taken place in Denmark since 1<sup>st</sup> 18. Until 1956 it was done by the State Inspection for public libraries, but when the school was started that year, education for employees and academic libraries was introduced too. The actual annual intake of students is 200; 140 in Copenhagen and 60 in Aalborg. In the 70's it was 360 at its highest peak.

The educational programme for librarians has been of 4 years' duration for more than 50 years, but there has been a continuing change in the contents as the practical element has been reduced from 3 years to one year, and only one term of that year is spent on working activities in a library or another information agency.

The theoretical part has thus grown from one year to 3-3,5 years and there has been a continuing effort to replace descriptive elements

with analysis, model building and theories. Especially in connection with the revision of the act in 1985 this development was underlined. This is also true as far as the inclusion of modern information technology in the teaching is concerned. A librarian who has been exposed to 4-year programme is designated: *Bibliotekar, D. B.* Until recently most newly graduated got employment in the public libraries. But due to recession the public sector is diminishing, and during the latest years the largest employment area for librarians is the private sector.

The Royal School of Librarianship forms the tertiary educational system and students with 12 and 13 years of primary and secondary school education are admitted. As in many other countries, the tertiary educational system is binary with universities as one group and more specialized institutions forming another one. There is a tendency to increase cooperation between the two systems so that students can change from one to another.

## **2. Education of masters in library and information science**

In september 1990 the Royal School of Librarianship started a new programme of masters level. Librarians from the school and others with at least 3 years of theoretical studies from universities or other tertiary educational institutions (bachelors) have access to it.

The curriculum contains such elements as foundation of information science, research methodology, organizational, management and economic dimensions of information systems and applied information science. During the 4th term the student must complete a dissertation.

About 90 persons applied for admission to the first course and 40 were admitted, 20 in Copenhagen and 20 in Aalborg, one half coming directly from the 4-years programme, the other half from the profession.

In September 1991 the school started a 4 years part-time programme accommodating 30 students with the same content and the number of applicants from the profession was high too.

There is an accumulated demand on the part of librarians for opportunities of formalized further education.

The Royal School of Librarianship has also suggested to the ministry that a 2 year masters programme within the field of cultural planning to be implemented but this has not been blueprinted. So now efforts are made to initiate cooperative programmes within this field with universities and other educational institutions. We are now hoping and expecting such programme to start in 1994.

### **3. Continuing education**

Continuing education is a very differentiated activity. It comprises short courses of only one day duration but also very long courses of 18 weeks duration. The education of the clerical staff in libraries is a 5 weeks programme supplemented with modules of 2-3 weeks duration within different specialities and the education of research librarians, academics working as subject specialists in university libraries is conveyed within a framework of a 350 teaching hours programme covering 2 terms.

Until recently all teaching activities at the school, including continuing education, was free to students and attendees and their employers as it was all state-financed, but during the recent years the number of continuing education courses have been financed partly or fully by fees.

Within the Nordic area cooperation in the library field is well developed and a number of continuing education courses are arranged in cooperation between the Royal School of Librarianship and the other nordic educational institutions and cooperative bodies such as NORDBOK (Public libraries) or NORDINFO (Research libraries and documentation).

The continuing education programme comprises approximately 150 course weeks per year and the course subjects cover all fields of library and information science, from reading gothic handwriting to implementation of the latest generation of computer-tools on library operations. If all continuing education activities are added together around 5.000 persons a year participate.

### **4. Research and Development**

The act of 1985 states that research and development is one of the main activities of the school.

This is done in close connection with the development of 4-years programme for librarians and the masters programme in library and information science.

The school has hosted research activities since its start in 1956 but there has been a steady growth in the research activities and in the publishing of results. The school is a large publisher of library and information science material. Most of it is in Danish but a growing part is in English. The most well known research activities internationally seen are the work of Annelise Mark Pejtersen dealing with classification and retrieval of fiction relying on a specially designed database, The Bookhouse, and the work of Peter Ingwersen on the cognitive aspects of informational retrieval.

Since 1977 the Royal School of Librarianship has taken active part in organizing of international conferences and seminars, and many of them have been arranged by the school. In 1992 the school hosted the ACM-SIGIR conference, which takes place in the United States every second year and in Europe in the years in between. More than 200 participants from all over the world participated in it.

The teaching and research of the school is supported by the library which is the national focal point for library and information science literature.

### **5. Consultancy**

During the latest 3-4 years the Royal School of Librarianship has entered the market for information consultants. Part of these activities are similar to some of the continuing education courses. Another part is concerned with analysis and advice to libraries, companies, organizations etc. As examples can be mentioned: consultancy to a large corporation about its computerized indexing system, a report on the nordic libraries in relation to EC-programmes, construction of a software to handle smaller collections and consultancy to municipalities about public library planning. The largest task so far has been consultancy to the Parliament library about its indexing system for parliamentary documents.

These activities have yielded much inspiration to the teachers of the school and it has contributed to the financing of its other activities.

### **12 years of continuing change**

During the latest 12 years there has been much turbulence at the school. When the branch of the school was established in Aalborg in 1973 there was a lack of librarians especially in the less urbanized parts of the country, but a few years later, due to the economic recession, there was unemployment among librarians. So the annual intake of students was reduced from 360 to 200. On the other hand there was a huge demand among librarians for continuing education in many fields, but especially in subjects with relation to the use of computers in libraries. Thus the school switched from the basic education to continuing education within a very short span of years.

At the same time research was further developed and the preparation for a general reform started in 1983. The 1985-Act provided for a new common curriculum for all librarians, it made research one of the main activities of the school and it opened up for the design of masters programmes.

For the time being the programme for research librarians is under the consideration, and one of the recommendations is that the school should implement a Ph.D. programme in library and information science, because the library field has a need for education of researchers within its own field.

Negotiations between the unions and the state has started about implementing a new structure for the teaching staff so that their working conditions and salaries will come even closer to those of the universities.

### **International relations**

The Royal School of Librarianship is participating in all aspects of international cooperation. The school is an IFLA-member and several staff members have been active in IFLA. My predecessor Preben Kirkegaard was IFLA-president 1974-79. The staff members are participating in the internationale network of research and con-

ferences and they publish in international as well as national periodicals.

Denmark is a EC member but is also a Nordic country, so the school as many other Danish institutions has a double task in relation to cooperative programmes. EC has the ERASMUS-programme for exchange of students and staff and the Nordic countries operate the NORDPLUS-programme with similar contents, and the Royal School of Librarianship participates in both programmes.

Between the Nordic library schools there is a general agreement on exchange of students, so that up to 1 year of studies can be carried out at another nordic institution. Exchange of staff for shorter or longer periods take place regularly. With the library school in Stuttgart the Royal School of Librarianship has an exchange agreement about staff. 3 teachers from Copenhagen have so far worked in Stuttgart and 2 teachers from Stuttgart have been teaching in Denmark. The Royal School of Librarianship is ready to make similar agreements with other library schools in Europe.

We have made a proposal under the TEMPUS - programme about curriculum development together with the Department of Librarianship, Daniel Berzsenyi Teachers Training College, Szombathely in Hungary and the Stuttgart school.

The school has also taken part in the preparations for a European organization of library teaching institutions, EUCLID, of which I am the chairman.

My colleagues from the other countries visit the school and some of them take part in conferences or give lectures to the students or the participants in the continuing education courses. During the years a number of students from other countries have taken the Danish library education courses; most of them from other Scandinavian countries, but also students from developing countries have done it. It means that they must master the Danish language, because almost all teaching is done in Danish. A part of textbooks are in English and within the masters programme the dominant part of textbooks and articles is in English. A very limited number of the continuing education courses are held in English, but in the years to come there will probably be growth in that type of activity.

We have already met the first representatives from sister institutions in the Baltic countries and are looking forward to closer cooperation in the years to come.

## DANIJOS KARALIŠKOJI BIBLIOTEKININKYSTĖS MOKYKLA

### Re z i u m ė

Danijos Karališkoji bibliotekininkystės mokykla veikia Kopenhagoje nuo 1956 m. Nuo 1973 m. ji turi savo filialą Aalborgė. Pagrindinės šios mokyklos veiklos kryptys yra šios: 1) bibliotekininkų rengimas; 2) bibliotekininkystės ir informacijos mokslų magistrų rengimas; 3) bibliotekininkų kvalifikacijos kėlimas; 4) moksliniai tyrimai; 5) konsultacijos. Visos veiklos kryptys, o taip pat tarptautinio bendradarbiavimo principai trumpai aptarti šiame straipsnyje.