

The Role of Libraries in National Politics

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Redefine libraries into a new political agenda

- ◆ Change from industrial to knowledge society gives libraries an opportunity to move closer to political core business
- ◆ From: cultural, physical-space oriented institutions
- ◆ to: networking knowledge providers

The traditional mission is:

- ◆ To collect, record, maintain, make accessible imprint and increasingly also other media
- ◆ Political discussions primarily related to dissemination

The traditional role of libraries changes



- ◆ 10 years of discussion on the shift from collection orientation to user- and connection orientation

What did we learn?

Some of the lessons:

- ◆ To give web-based access to physical collections
- ◆ To establish new web-based services
- ◆ To support development of information literacy, integration, social inclusion
- ◆ Networking - new organisations

A new information world - the knowledge society

- ◆ ICT is rapidly changing our cultural context and the behaviour of citizens and their use of information
- ◆ Globalisation and knowledge society – strategy offers a new role for libraries
- ◆ A new role should be defined with new needs as starting point

'Globalisation-topics' as needs libraries may adress

- ◆ Increasing illiteracy
- ◆ more and better education wanted
- ◆ need for lifelong learning
- ◆ need for informations literacy
- ◆ lacking integration of ethnic minorities
- ◆ variety of groups need social inclusion
- ◆ reinforce citizenship
- ◆ empower research
- ◆ disseminate new research

The EU-agenda on *globalisation*:

- ◆ Maintain and develop the democratic welfare society:
 - ◆ Development based on research and education
 - ◆ Innovation the critical parameter

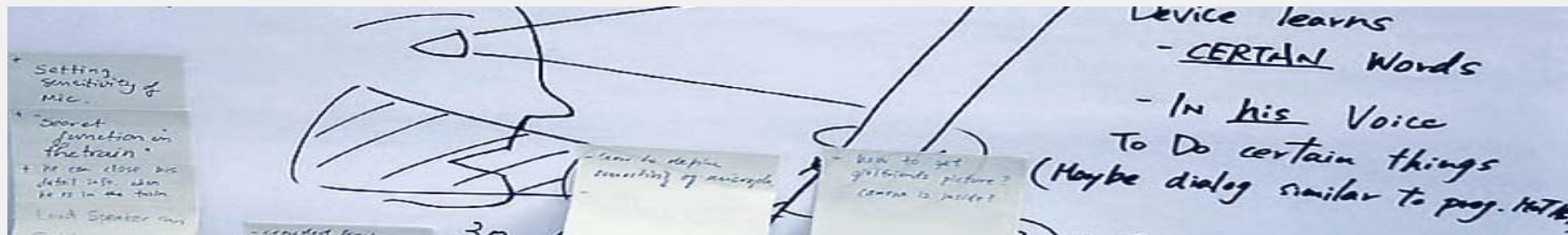
- ◆ Some challenges:
 - ◆ Social tensions in multi-cultural societies
 - ◆ Transportation barriers gone
 - ◆ Traditional industrial jobs follow the lowest wages: Europe being job-drained
 - ◆ Digital divide broader than expected



What can we do?

- ◆ Reinforce our strategies
 - ◆ services based on national informations infrastructure
- ◆ Create new services
- ◆ Build new competencies
- ◆ Smash old institutional structures and create new partnerships and network

A new vision for libraries



- ◆ Libraries as an interactive value-adding resource in the knowledge-, education- and cultural system creating wealth and inspiration
- ◆ Libraries handle the raw material – *knowledge* - for all basic functions in society

A new mission for libraries

- ◆ Libraries have three basic missions:
 - ◆ To create access to all kinds of information
 - ◆ To establish learning spaces on all levels in order to facilitate the process of turning information into knowledge
 - ◆ To produce and publish information to make it accessible to qualify all processes in society and for the development of the individual

Tasks to create a new kind of seamless access

- ◆ Access to e-content
 - ◆ A coherent national information infrastructure
 - ◆ A national authentication and authorisation platform
 - ◆ One operating centre for national library web services
 - ◆ Network with other e-resources
 - ◆ Extremely efficient ILL-system

Creating learning space with library resources

- ◆ Models to integrate information literacy in the educational system - formalised
- ◆ E-learning information literacy
- ◆ Various programmes for social inclusion
- ◆ Reading campaigns and support for literacy programmes
- ◆ Cultural activities
- ◆ Learning and educational support facilities:
E-reference. Homework cafés. How-to-study portal
- ◆ Support for job training and job searching
- ◆ E-government support

Publishing – a library task?



- ◆ Institutional repositories and e-archives
- ◆ Digitisation, MLA resources
- ◆ Subject portals and gateways
- ◆ Non-profit web publishing

Good luck with your work

◆ Thank you for listening!

