

Cultural twin town meeting in Sarpsborg 16.09.15 - the Library group

Present:

Carsten Holter Jensen, Struer

Catharina Fogelström, Södertälje

Maarit Järveläinen, Forssa

Anette Kure, Sarpsborg

Torill Stokkan, Sarpsborg (first part of the day)

Program:

9.00 Welcome, introduction and practical orientation of today's agenda by Anette

9.30 Group discussion/exchange of experience

The physical library space – how must libraries change to meet new requirements from the public and from our governmental bodies?

- What has been done in each library so far to change the physical space, if any changes have been made? Can we learn from each other?
- How can we develop our libraries to maintain our position as important meeting places in our communities?
- The public library as a learning center

10.45 Short coffee break

11.00 Literary exchanges by Torill Stokkan

Literary exchanges between twin cities - exchanging writers, gain insight into each other's literary history. Maybe this can be made visible in our respective libraries and / or during festivals etc. We refer to cooperation / exhibition we had with Struer Museum under our Literature Week some years ago.

11.45 Summary of the morning program by Anette

12.00-13.30 Lunch and tour of Sarpsborg Scene

Kl. 13.30-16.00

13.30 Group Discussion/exchange of experience

Library content and services – (at least in Norway) the focus changes from collections management and lending books to active dissemination of content, being an arena for debate and public discussion and a meeting place.

- Events and happenings – how is it organized in our libraries? What is successful and what has failed? Can we share experiences and get new ideas on how to put together good, interesting programs in our libraries?
- Reading campaigns? For children? For other target groups?
- How do we reach young adults?
- Digital services, e-books – how to build good collections, how to make good use of available digital resources and how to reach our users and non-users.

15.00 Short coffee break

15.15 Debating today's program and topics good/bad, useful, and the group's future organization and meeting frequency.

16.00 End of meeting

We started out by updating each other on the status of our libraries, shared some statistics and made some comparisons. Even though there are differences, many of our challenges are

similar. How to organize staff and services is one question we all are looking into. How to recruit broader, with competencies that are 'new' to libraries was another topic we discussed.

Torill Stokkan shared some of her ideas for next year's Literature Week in Sarpsborg. History will be a main focus. Some of her ideas are to arrange a historical symposium where the discussion will be on how history is written and on sources. Another idea is to focus on fantasy literature, to look into how the Norse heritage influences authors. Tolkien's fascination of the Kalevala is possibly one angle of interest. If the twin town libraries are interested, we can look into a tighter link between the towns literary heritage in next years Literature Week.

The directors decided that we want to continue collaborations, and have set the following plan for 2016:

1. We will explore the possibilities of collaborating during Sarpsborg Literature Week.
 - a. Torill Stokkan will present outlines of a project involving fantasy literature, Tolkien, the Finnish language, kalevala
 - b. Maybe it is possible to exchange authors, or at least books from local authors.
 - c. Look into the possibility of streaming events during the Literature Week to libraries in the twin towns.
2. The directors will communicate formally via documents etc on the common platform, but informally in a closed facebook group.
3. In 2016 Modelprogram for folkebiblioteker (<http://modelprogrammer.kulturstyrelsen.dk/>) will host a conference in Denmark. The directors wishes all attend this conference, meet up and continue our discussions.
4. Exchange program for staff
 - a. Each year during Nordic Library Week (week 46), starting from 2016, staff from all four libraries will visit a twin library for work exchange. The directors are to plan for this and seek funding. The goal is that at least four staff members do one week in a twin library each year.
 - b. The directors also want to develop an exchange program for them selves, to learn from each other and to seek inspiration.

Anette Kure
06.10.2015