

SVUC meeting

Time: 27.10.2006 at 9.00-14.30

Place: Landskerfi Bókasafna, Reykjavik, Iceland

Participants: Per Mogens Petersen, DBC, Denmark
Tommy Schomacker, DBC, Denmark
Annu Jauhiainen, The National Library of Finland
Juha Hakala, The National Library of Finland (chair)
Laila Heinemann, The National Library of Finland (minutes)
Fanny Sigurgeirsdóttir, Consortium of Icelandic Libraries
Sigrún Hauksdóttir, Consortium of Icelandic Libraries
Sveinbjörg Sveinsdóttir, Consortium of Icelandic Libraries
Arnvid Hellebust, BIBSYS, Norway
Gunvald Strømme, BIBSYS, Norway
Marit Vestlie, The National Library of Norway
Christer Larsson, The National Library of Sweden
Kristin Olsson, The National Library of Sweden

The meeting was preceded by an introduction to Gegnir + activities of Landskerfi and a visit to the National Library of Iceland on the day before.

1. Opening

Juha Hakala opened the meeting. It was noted that since the last meeting both the Swedish and the Finnish partners have changed their names. Kungliga biblioteket is now called in English The National Library of Sweden; the name in Swedish remains the same. Helsinki University Library is now officially The National Library of Finland; the name was changed in all languages (in Finnish to Kansalliskirjasto and in Swedish to Nationalbiblioteket).

1.1. Agenda

Three issues were dropped from the draft agenda:

- *User authentication systems*, because not much has happened since the previous meeting;
- *Service description harvesting tool*, because the software was not available in time;
- *Gegnir Z39.50*, because the implementation was not completed yet, and we got an introduction to Gegnir itself on the day before.

The last issue, National updates, was moved to the top of the agenda.

1.2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Two corrections were made to the minutes of the previous meeting, issue 6.2: SWAMI (Swedish Alliance for Middleware Infrastructure, <http://www.swami.se/swami/>) is a

organisation for middleware cooperation in the Swedish higher education community.
Stockholm University Library evaluates Shibboleth within the SWAMI alliance..

2. Updates of national issues/developments

2.1. Iceland

An in depth introduction to Gegnir was given on the day before. Gegnir covers all types of libraries: Public libraries, Primary schools, Universities and the National Library, Government libraries, Research libraries, Secondary Schools and Associations. Gegnir uses the ExLibris Aleph500 system. The system was implemented in three phases, and data was migrated from two major and several small library systems.

The initial task is finished now and all phases are completed. More than 200 libraries are using Gegnir as their local system. The implementation process has taken 6 years altogether, and the Icelandic Library Consortium will celebrate its 5th anniversary in November.

The hosting of the library system was recently moved to a new service provider (Icelandic IBM).

Currently ExLibris is setting up SFX eXpress. This should be completed in November. The Z39.50 server will be installed after that. Next step will be creation of virtual bases to make searching easier and clean up of authority problems and issues regarding Aleph version 16.

The Consortium also provides a lot of training, including a three day course for cataloguers before they get the right to enter records into the database.

The biggest problem is that the Icelandic Consortium Office is understaffed. The libraries complain that they get answers to their problems too slow, but end users seem to be satisfied anyway.

2.2. Denmark

DBC was established in 1994 to host both the Union Catalogue of Danish libraries and the Danish National Bibliography. DBC is also responsible for the Danish library system and standardisation. It is a non-profit organisation that is owned by the government, local authorities and one big publisher. In the future these will be separated into two units: the National bibliography funded by the Government and the Union Catalogue funded by the libraries.

The Danish Union Catalogue DanBib can be accessed via three gateways:

1. Z39.50; item level holdings transfer as defined in the Danish Z39.50 profile is supported by e.g. Axiell/Libra, Aleph and the domestic Danish library systems
2. *Netpunkt* is the professional interface to DanBib. It also facilitates e.g. ILL.

3. *bibliotek.dk* is the public user interface, which is free by law¹

[For more details, please, refer to <http://www.danbib.dk/index.php?doc=english>]

Some DanBib material is included in WorldCat following the agreement between OCLC and the Danish National Library of Education. One Danish library is also searchable via Google Scholar (with DBC providing technical assistance in the process).

ILL is also free for the customers via bibliotek.dk. It is funded by the Government (with 10 million DKR a year). It is a totally automated process. The loans are delivered to the nearest library, not to the customers direct. The ILL statistics are going up, and total currently about 2 million loans a year.

DBC has recently opened also a book cover service. The book cover images are delivered automatically with the item metadata. A copyright contract has been negotiated for both public and research libraries. It covers all Danish books (the foreign material, however, is not covered by any copyright contract).

DBC has also formed a partnership with the Danish InfoMedia to build a portal for e-books. This will be launched in two weeks time (<http://www.ebog.dk/>).

2.3. Norway

The National Library has launched a project for acquiring a new library system to replace the 30 different systems currently in use internally.

The "Bibliographic plan" covers: Description of the catalogue (what it is), Description of the bibliographies (which material, on what level), Subject headings and Preservation data ("norsk bevaringsdata") for non-book materials .

The Union Catalogue covers also public libraries. A *bibliotek.no* portal is being planned.

The Norwegian ILL system is rigid and costly to run.

The biggest project is the digitisation of all Norwegian material (DIGIT). Books with duplicate copies are "slaughtered" to speed up the process. Only older, rare books are digitised manually. The task should be ready by 2017, but extra funding is needed. The metadata is transferred to Bibsys.

Besides books also post cards and posters have been digitised. The former are easy, because the card itself usually contains the metadata needed for cataloguing, whereas poster metadata can be very hard to obtain. The National Library works together with the Norwegian copyright organisation.

Electronic legal deposit legislation is still open. Currently it is OK to use the material inside the library, but free access cannot be provided. Hopefully time will help in solving this problem.

¹ in Sweden and Norway the use of the Union Catalogue is also free by law, whereas in Finland the situation is the opposite

Bibsys has launched a new design of their website in September. It is now divided into two: one section for all users ("yellow pages") and another section for Bibsys members ("blue pages").

A new search service called MIME will be launched in October. It is a sort of "Bibsys Metalib" with a link server similar to SFX. It will be free for searching, but full text material is restricted to subscribers only. Not all Bibsys libraries have full access yet, only about one third of them. The four big university libraries use Metalib.

For SVUC databases you must still use the old Z-Søk, but there are plans to integrate also them into the MIME portal in the future.

A big modernisation project has just started. The idea is to determine which systems can be home made and which ones are better bought off the shelf.

There is also a project for building an institutional repository, which will be a common system for local archives.

Bibsys is undergoing an administrative change as well. It has been an independent institution under the University of Trondheim, but will become a Government Agency directly under the Ministry of Education and Research. The change will take place in 2008, but the details are still being discussed.

2.4. Sweden

~~KB~~ LIBRIS has just upgraded the library system to Voyager version 5. Z39.50 can be used for copy cataloguing, but SRU is also available.

There is an Open Collections project for digitising older material. It is mainly Government supported to provide employment.

KB buys records from the Library of Congress, British Library and the National Library of Germany. These are loaded into a separate database that is accessible with Voyager clients. From there they can be copy catalogued into LIBRIS.

KB also has a Dawson project together with Lund University. The aim is to rationalise the acquisition and cataloguing process. Books published by Dawson come with metadata and the Swedish subject headings and classifications are then just added to it. The metadata is of good quality since the original is often a British Library record!

Future plans to develop LIBRIS include new version of LIBRIS web search, "Library 2.0" features, book covers, tables of content etc. The Verva project is about handling governmental electronic publications and make them searchable as a special collection within the LIBRIS web search frame.

Import of metadata directly from publishers will be in the ONIX format from 2007. LIBRIS has increased the amount of SFX instances from 1 to 19. The SFX consortia member libraries have bought SFX-instances and LIBRIS/KB is hosting them.

Next spring there will be a new ILL system, which will be totally web based. LIBRIS current ILL system already provides an export interface for external services.

LIBRIS delivers records to Google Scholar and is also seeking other places where to promote its collections.

There is an ongoing discussion with Bibsam on a national Institutional Repository search service..

The study on LIBRIS as local system is now under a second phase, suggesting possible system architecture solutions for local circulation links. There is also a study about the benefits and problems of going over from the national SAB classification system to an international system like Dewey.

2.6. Finland

The University Libraries' Linnea Consortium has launched a library system evaluation project. This is due to a growing dissatisfaction in the Voyager system. So far a definition of requirements has been made and potential vendors have been short listed. Questionnaires will soon be sent to users of those systems to find out if the product development and the support have matched up to the promises given. However, the main problem is finances: there is no money available at the moment and there are also many other systems that need funding from the very same resources. The final decision in the matter will be made by the consortium members.

Currently there are several different applications by different vendors in use in Finland: Voyager library system, MetaLib portal system with SFX, EnCompass and DSpace for digital repositories and the home made Halti2 for electronic resources management. Moreover the National Archives have a project for a digital archives system. The ILL system project has been frozen for the moment, because the situation may be totally different if another library system is selected.

There is also a hardware project that aims at acquiring one big server for all the digital library applications, replacing the existing five database servers. This would be hosted by CSC, Finnish IT center for science, which hosts the current servers and, among other things, the fastest supercomputers in Finland. They would provide a full package service including the acquisition, maintenance and upgrading process.

Finland sends records from the National Bibliography (not the UC) to WorldCat four times a year. Older material (-1800) is sent to the CERL Hand Press Book Database.

The Union Catalogue LINDA now contains 5 million records. Currently it only covers the collections of the university libraries (and a couple of special libraries), but a project has been launched to include also the polytechnics libraries. The first pilot collections will be added this year.

As to the library itself, the organisation structure has become clearer when the library got the official National Library mandate from the Ministry of Education. In spite of the change of name and status the library continues to be an administrative unit under the University of Helsinki. Currently there is an internal reorganisation process going on. From the SVUC point of view the essential change will be the merging of the Database Services and the National Electronic Library Services. They will become one unit called Library Network Services.

3. Promotion of SVUC

In the annual ILL conference in Denmark earlier this autumn it turned out that many people either did not know about SVUC at all or had wrong ideas about it. It seemed to be a common belief that the agreement covered only copy cataloguing, not searching. Some people thought it was a project that had ended long ago.

So it is clear we have to market SVUC better.

It was agreed that the first measure to take is to update the website and make it more informative also for the libraries. This can be done by dividing it into two sections: one for partners and the other one for libraries. The libraries page should at least contain national contact information to a help desk or such, where the libraries can get support and further information on their own language. It was also decided to include the minutes of the meetings and other related documents in the partners page. The technical information on the current front page will also be moved to the partners section. However, it was decided not to list the IP addresses in the open web. So far only Bibsys has supplied them, but even their members are not happy with it. Instead the name of the contact person for the IP address administration in each country should be listed. The text of the agreement shall be revised accordingly.

The National Library of Finland, which is hosting the SVUC website, is currently moving its www-pages to a new platform. The revised SVUC website can be launched together with the new NLF website in the beginning of next year. Until then all ideas are welcome! Laila Heinemann is the editor of the SVUC site.

In addition active promotion is also needed. We should provide information on "what SVUC can do for you". Some kind of mission statement would be helpful in this. It was also suggested that best promotion is to provide what users really need.

SVUC is not a portal, but you can build on it, e.g. SVUC databases can be included in national portals.

The contract itself shall be revised. Juha Hakala will send a draft by the 17th of November. It was decided to extend the contract period to three years.

It was also agreed that we should meet more often, since this is the only common Nordic forum left. The general idea of SVUC, "No money between us", could also be applied wider. A joint project with the Nordbib Nordic Open Access project funding was also discussed.

From now on the meetings will be held three times a year, two days each.

The SVUC mailing list can also be used as an active discussion list between meetings.

4. Search standards

The current situation with search standards is that Z39.50 is sufficient in many ways, but it is in danger of dying away. There is an attempt to market SRU also outside libraries. For this reason the aim was to make it simple, but in the process it became perhaps too simple. Meanwhile the Amazon OpenSearch is taking over "the rest of the world".

It was agreed that we should be able to support them all – and also other protocols that might be coming (e.g. XML searches).

The order of preference is:

1. Z39.50 support is obligatory
2. SRU is recommended
3. OpenSearch can be supported
4. New ones should be considered

Another problem is that the publishing sector often does not use any standards at all. IFLA has proposed IPA rules for ONIX.

5. ILL specifications and policies

The main problem is that there is no valid standard. ISO/ILL is completely outdated and it has not been widely implemented. It is likely that few new implementations will emerge during the remaining lifetime of the protocol.

Denmark has a national solution, some ISO/ILL services on top of Z39.50, the Norwegians have their own proprietary infrastructure, and so do the Swedish. In Finland there is no infrastructure at all. Currently the libraries have to be registered members in all different systems to be able to place an ILL order.

A project was suggested to learn how the libraries want to co-operate in this, and to clarify the procedure.

6. Other issues

6.1. NOSP

There was a question about the situation and the future of NOSP.

The use is going down, but there is still an interest in it, lately also in the Baltic countries. However, there is no money and no guarantee of results. The system would need a new platform and also more regular updates. The question remains if it is still needed. It could also be kept alive with simple improvements.

6.2. The next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen on 22.-23.3.2007.