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"Libraries - A voyage of discovery"

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155 SI - Libraries for the Blind with Public Libraries

Achieving inclusion through partnership

Libraries for all - the Swedish way

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Abstract

I am going to talk about how the Talking Book services to people with print disabilities in Sweden came to be included in the services of all public libraries.

I will point out four cornerstones of this development: 1. the participation of the stakeholders, 2. early political decisions pointing out the importance of equal opportunities and inclusion, 3. legislation where copyright legislation is a base and 4. a widespread awareness in society about accessibility.

The result is that people with disabilities in need of Talking Books go to their local library where they find Talking Books in the shelves. They can also search for Talking books in an online catalogue where there are records of all Talking Books produced in accordance with the exception in the Swedish Copyright Law.

The Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, TPB, is the Government Authority, which produces the main part of Talking Books in Sweden, about 3 000 new titles every year. The total stock today consists of 85 000 titles. The local libraries buy and borrow Talking Books from TPB. The county libraries have a special mission to support the local libraries with their Talking Book service.

TPB is working for main-stream DAISY and many government authorities today produce also in DAISY-format.

The Talking Book services are a totally integrated part of the public libraries and since a couple of years also in the university libraries. Internet distribution from TPB's archive of digital talking books makes the service still better.

A new copyright law coming into effect July 2005 will make it possible for people with disabilities to buy their own adapted book is one more step towards equal opportunities.

Libraries for all - the Swedish way

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Cornerstones

- Ideas expressed by the stakeholders
- Political decisions, programmes
- Legislation
- Consciousness of Accessibility

The stakeholders

• Without the strong political work by The Swedish Federation of Visually impaired (SRF), and lately from the Swedish Association of Persons with Difficulties in Reading and Writing/Dyslexia (FLMS), Sweden would not had the copyright law we have, the resources that TPB has, the library link, the interest from the Parliament for Talking Newspapers and Talking Books all through the years. They have signalled very strongly that they want a better way to read and information freedom in practice not only in theory

Early political decisions

- "Culture for all" a parliamentary commission 1976 made up the road map to equality – normalisation – decentralisation
- TPB government authority from 1980
- All libraries have talking book services

- As a person with a print disability you just walk in to your local library branch and find talking books on the shelves and a catalogue with all the books TPB produced

Legislation

- Copyright law
- Library law
- The Local Community Act
- Anti-discrimination laws

The copyright legislation

- Early the rights of blind and visually impaired were recognised. The first law with an exception for producing a copy without permission from the copyright-owner was set in 1960
- Without the permission from the copyright owner
- Everyone has the right to produce books and music in braille
- Those libraries or organisations that are appointed by the government may record literary and musical works for blind and for persons with visual or mobile impairment
- You borrow your Talking Books, but you may make a private copy
- A title produced by the commercial market can not be produced as a Talking Book
- Agreement with Author's union
- 1977 an agreement with the Author's union that the exception in the copy right law in the benefit for blind and visually impaired also could cover all people with print disabilities
- New law following the EU directives from July.1 2005
- Those libraries and organisations, that are appointed by the government, may produce copies from all types of material, (literature, music, art, film etc) in an accessible format (audio, e-book, sign language, braille etc.) and transmit them to the customer via Internet to people with disabilities that need such adaptation.

The Library Act 8 §

Public Libraries and School Libraries shall pay marked attention to people with disabilities by, among other things, offering literature that is adjusted to their requirements

The Local Community Act

- The obligation of equal treatment of its citizens in the law is an important tool to found awareness on equal opportunities.

New laws from 2002

- Law requiring Equal Treatment of Students within universities
- Law against discrimination of students with disabilities within universities

Widespread awareness of accessibility

- Political programmes on accessibility at all levels
- The Library for all-projects
- The Dyslexia – campaign
- The Open University
- The DAISY-campaign
- The Web accessibility
- The Reading Movement

On 31 May, 2000 the Parliament decided

- That people with functional disabilities shall have the same possibilities as others to access information and to make their voices heard.
- The decision meant that all agencies have to review their information materials to make them accessible to people with special needs. A functional disability should not entail an information disability.

The National Action Plan for Handicap Policy

- Full accessibility to Society should be implemented before 2010
- The Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs gets 1000 000 Euros a year to support accessibility projects
- TPB receives 200 000 Euros a year for DAISY

Where is TPB in this

- TPB produces/buys 3000 new daisy books a year, 70% on demand
- TPB is informing and advising libraries and other agencies and publishers
- Taking part in many different projects
- Developing tools in collaboration with DC
- Active part in the Swedish DAISY Consortium. Training
- Increasing service to Braille-users

Not only wishful thinking!

- All information providers know how to generate DAISY- files in e-text, audio or synthetic speech. Soon.
- Digital archive at TPB from where you borrow and buy. Now!
- Broad band distribution both to libraries and individuals. Now!
- Publishers deliver files in XML. Soon.
- Publishers produce book and DAISY – the first ones have already come!

Libraries for all?

Libraries for all – that is possible. But it demands special efforts. And good partnerships!