Collection management collaborations in Sweden

Digitization and print collections

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Uppsala university library

• University founded in 1477, all faculties and subjects
• Library founded in 1621, 170 employees
• Large collections: old, new, licenced and OA publishing
• Part of many national collaborations
Two large national collaborations

- Digitization of Swedish print
- Collaboration on weeding and preserving print collections
Common goal: easier access for users

- Increase digital access
- Secure print copies

Resource sharing / sharing the burden

- collections
- competencies and staff
- systems
- standards
Digitization of Swedish print
Current state

Many libraries digitize their collections and have high competence and advanced technology.

Libraries collaborate with researchers.

But...

Not much of Swedish print cultural heritage is digitized – only about 5-10%.

No joint infrastructure or user interface for digitized material.

No government funding for digitization.
National collaboration

The National library and the five largest university libraries: Stockholm, Uppsala, Lund, Göteborg and Umeå

Focus areas:

• Digitization, infrastructure and development
• Joint standards and strategies
• Raise the need for additional funding
Problems to solve

More material

- Only about 5-10% of copyright-free Swedish print is digitized – will take 300 years at current pace 😊

Easier to use

- Many different publishing platforms – local focus
- Not possible to search among all digitized material

Meet research needs - new research methods

- Read, analyse, search in fulltext, good quality images
- Text and Data Mining (TDM), automatic analysis of images and texts, machine learning algorithms
Digitized material = data for research

Texts becomes data

Interoperability – open and connected with other digital collections and dataset

Need for national infrastructure for access and use

- Standards for metadata and datafiles
- Open linked data
- API:s for automatic transfer of data
Where do you start?

- What is the "Swedish" print? How much is it?
- Can we digitize more at our libraries or should we outsource? What common standards do we need?
- How much would it cost to digitize it all? How could we get funding?
- What other GLAM institutions should we collaborate with?
- How do users want to access and use digitized material?
- How can we organize for a longterm collaboration?
Starting the collaboration

• Defining ”Swedish print”
• Setting a technical standard for photo/scanning
• Joint selection prioritization
  • Journals 1850-1900, dissertations and the oldest material
• Setting up a specific search in the national catalog for Swedish digitized print material
• Informing about the collaboration
  • Webpage, newspaper article, radio interview, webinar
Focus on the user perspective

- Text analytic
- Searching for similar texts
- Digital Humanities researcher
- Subject exploration
- Serendipity

Specific interest
- Book reader
- Genealogist
- Finding a known recipe

Manual analysis

Automatic analysis

Open exploration
Focus on the user perspective

Automatic analysis
- Text and images in machine readable form
- Search material from many sources
- Search full text
- Large data sets
- Easy download of standardized data
- Links, subjects and themes

Manual analysis

Specific interest
- Many books, easy to read
- Easy user interfaces

Open exploration
Meeting user needs

Prioritized needs

• Single user interface for material from all libraries
• Full text search in digitized material
• Options for automatic download and analysis

→ Investigating options for a national data platform and a joint user interface
Ongoing work

Developing the collaboration
- Networking and knowledge exchange
- Digitization of journals

Deepened Library-Museum-Archive collaboration
- National Archives

Developing a national infrastructure and additional funding
- National data platform and user interface
- Discussions with research funders
Digitization is up on the table

- Discussion among research funders, politicians and LAM-sector
- Working towards longterm national solutions for funding and infrastructure
- Libraries are being proactive and creating value - and we are ready to scale up!
Collaboration on weeding and preserving print collections
Collections and collection building

Research libraries: ”We don’t build collectitons anymore”

”There is a need for a national strategy for physical collections”
Collections and collection building

• Extensive weeding of print collections in HE libraries
  → many short-term weeding decisions
  → loosing breadth and depth in collections

• Unsure situation for special libraries, including library closures

• The legal deposit regulates 2 preservation copies, but these are also for use, and might not last
Investigation

”National framework för weeding and preservation”

Inspired by international collaborations

- UK: UK Research Reserve
- USA: consortial solutions
- Norway: national print storage

Showed an interest from libraries to work closer together on maintaining their print collections.

”Everything for everyone, always”
Vision

Research libraries collaborate for the long term and take joint responsibility for saving, preserving and making available material for the needs of today and the future, for all their target groups.

- Collaboration
- Preservation
- Access
Start of the collaboration

• Steering committee
  • The National library
  • 5 university libraries
  • 3 special libraries

• Working group
Letter of intent

“With this letter of intent, libraries want to clarify their shared responsibility and the need for national coordination to ensure the long-term supply of information in the form of print material.”

“for the benefit of researchers, today and tomorrow, and in support of the democratic society”

“to find forms for joint preservation and for coordinated and transparent weeding”

“clarifies the common responsibility and the different roles of libraries in the management of the printed collections”
Letter of intent

The Royal Library (National library)

University libraries:
• Göteborg
• Karlstad
• Lund
• Umeå
• Uppsala
• Södertörn

Special libraries:
• The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities
• Swedish Parliament
• Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums
National collection analysis

• National collection analysis using metadata in the national catalogue Libris.

• Analysis similar to a UK analysis from 2016, “Strength in numbers” → “scarcity is common”

• What is ”rare” and ”common” in a Swedish and international context?
National collection analysis

• Collection overview
  • How many records have few or only one holding?
  • How many records have many holdings?

• How are collections distributed between library types? (national/research/special libraries)
• How is the regional distribution?
National collection analysis

Preliminary results for print journals
Total of 230 000
Less than 5 holdings for 82% of journal titles
(different journal suites - even lower overlap)
Next step: start year and library type
National collection analysis

Preliminary results for print monographs
Total of 3 000 000
Next step: holdings per title, holdings per library type
Next steps

• Collaboration on preservation
  • "Last copy management"

• Collaboration on weeding
  • Weeding of print scientific journals (keep 1-2 copies)

• International collaborations
  • Epico - Euorpean Print Initiatives Collaboration
Digitization and shared print

- Synergy effects
- New ways for libraries to work together and share resources
- Shift from local focus to national collaboration and shared infrastructures
Thanks!

Questions?