

Creating a Learning Resources Centre at Stockholm University.

A workshop led by Gunilla Lillie Bauer, IT-Coordinator, University Library, Stockholm University

The Stockholm University Library is at the starting point of developing a new agenda. The inspiration for this change was a lecture in late 1999, where the ideas and goals behind the concept Learning Resource Centre were presented. The project is a joint investment with several partners, among which we can find university institutions, the ICT- department and the student council. Gunilla Lillie Bauer is a member of the project group.

Gunilla Lillie Bauer began the workshop announcing that this was not going to be a workshop in a traditional sense. In stead she wanted to have an inspiring discussion session, where the participants would exchange ideas and thoughts about possibilities and obstacles in developing a Learning Resource Centre. Most of the workshop participants own libraries are about to or in the middle of a changing process towards creating a LRS, either in new premises or in existing ones, and so Gunilla Lillie Bauer invited the workshop participants to start from their own experiences in the discussion.

A short introduction of the work process at the Stockholm University was followed by a very intensive and engaging debate. The discussion circled around three main issues:

1. Competition and/or cooperation between librarians and teachers
2. Premises: should there be new buildings for the "new library", if not how to use the old library premise accordingly?
3. New qualifications: What kind of competence is needed at a LRS?

All of the workshop participants took part in the intense discussion, which started with the premises-question. They all agreed on the importance if this question and on the difficulties in balancing the users demands for open and close/silence spaces. Several pointed out that there is a need for silence spaces in our society and that the library should provide this. The importance of offering different spaces and services to different student groups was also emphasized; the students of today are not as homogeneous as they used to be.

The question how much the librarians should work together with the teachers and in what way is an old issue. The participants testified to the difficulties in engaging the teachers. One explanation could be that the teachers often doesn't recognise the services that the librarians offer them, another could be lack of time or knowledge of the library functions. The library has to make itself visible through target marketing. The education of teachers in information literacy and general IT-competence, is a condition for a positive cooperation between teachers and librarians.

Competence areas that should be brought attention to are service competence and pedagogic skills. Every encounter with a user should be a "pedagogic meeting". Finally the participants concluded that the traditional library culture, which focus on loans and physical media (books), could be an obstacle in creating a successful learning recourse centre.