



Informationen zum Bibliothekswesen im Ostseeraum

Information on Librarianship in the Baltic Sea Region

NEWSLETTER OF THE BIBLIOTHECA BALTICA WORKING GROUP

Newsletter - No. 23 - June 2012



Marburg April 2012. Photo: C. Melldahl, National Library of Sweden

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Impressum:

This edition of the Bibliotheca Baltica Newsletter was prepared and edited by Catharina Melldahl on behalf of the President and Board of Bibliotheca Baltica.

The Bibliotheca Baltica Newsletter is published at least once every year. A paper version is sent to all members of Bibliotheca Baltica, an electronic version is available on the internet at <http://baltica.lnb.lv>

Membership:

Bibliotheca Baltica invites all interested libraries to join the association in order to exchange information, to promote and to preserve the cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea Area, to initiate medium and large scale projects and to meet colleagues from the same field of interest.

The annual membership fee is 60 Euro (2011).

Please contact the secretary, Jürgen Warmbrunn, at the address above if you have any further questions about membership or if you have already decided to become a member of Bibliotheca Baltica

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Marburg, April 2012. Photo: C. Melldahl, National Library of Sweden



Words from the President

2012 will distinguish itself with a number of library gatherings which will highlight the Baltic region. At the end of June and beginning of July, Liber will be holding its Annual Conference in Tartu. The IFLA Annual World Meeting will follow in Helsinki in August. Thirdly, Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium will take place in Tallinn in October. The Baltic Region will indeed be a center of focus in the library world.

Bibliotheca Baltica has been invited to arrange a seminar at the IFLA Annual World Meeting on Sunday, 12th August to introduce our organization and the agenda for the coming years to a wider circle. Information about the Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium in October is available in this newsletter.

Personally, this year has brought great changes in my life. After eight and a half year as National Librarian in Sweden, I have left this position. I am now a consultant in leadership development and training, and serve on several boards. This has required a reorientation on my part. Now it is time to support others in leadership positions. I must say – leadership in the digital age is as great a challenge in the library as in other sectors.

In October, my four year term as President for Bibliotheca Baltica will come to a conclusion. These years have been very interesting for me, the board and its members. The cooperative efforts which we have highlighted in the library sector are of importance to a broader circle in the region - not only in the public, but also in the private sector. At the General Assembly during the Tallinn-symposium, we will elect a new President. I am utterly convinced that Bibliotheca Baltica in the coming years will play an important role in supporting and developing collaboration between libraries in our region.

Summer is upon us. Before we rush too far ahead, let us enjoy this very special season! I wish you all a pleasantly sunny summer.

Gunnar Sahlin



IFLA Market Bibliotheca Baltica Sunday 12th of August 12 – 1.30 p.m.

IFLA Market Session is perfect place to promote your own library or your library's projects, to meet other librarians from the Baltic Sea Region and to express your expectations about the Bibliotheca Baltica cooperation.

Please, join the Market!

- Bibliotheca Baltica as an association for libraries in the Baltic Sea Region
- Humanist Greek Texts in the Libraries of Estonia, Finland and Sweden
- New National Library of Latvia: coexistence of physical and digital
- Finno-Ugric digitization project and cooperation between Finnish and Russian National Libraries
- Meet You in Tallinn – The International Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium in October 2012





THE 11th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Changing Library Services for Researchers - Best Practices from the Baltic Sea Region -

Tallinn, Estonia October 25th and 26th, 2012
The National Library of Estonia
Small Conference Hall

Programme and registration:
www.nlib.ee/bibliotheca-baltica

Subthemes

- Library services for researchers – new challenges. Presentations and discussion about how the libraries face the new challenges from the research community.
- Researchers as library users - "in their own words". Examples of expectations and experiences from the research community.

Speakers

Professor Klaus Tochtermann, Kiel University, Germany
Olga I. Kaganovskaya, National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg, Russia
Jürgen Warmbrunn & Professor Karsten Brueggemann, Herder-Institut, Germany
Irma Reijonen, Slavonic Library, National Library of Finland, Finland
Anne Laitinen, University of Helsinki, Finland
Eva Norling, Blekinge University of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden
Kai Idarand, National Library of Estonia, Estonia
Tiina Kallas & Pille Naar National Library of Estonia, Estonia
Dace Lagerborg, Södertörn University, Sweden
Mikolaj Kopernik University, Torun, Poland
Stefanie Bollin, Greifswald University, Germany
Professor Tiina Kirss, Tallinn University, Germany

Bibliotheca Baltica Travel Grant in Memory of Boris Volodin is designed to enable younger librarians from Bibliotheca Baltica's member countries to participate in symposium. More information and applications:
Dr. Jürgen Warmbrunn (warmbrunn@herder-institut.de)

Projects and funding

Bibliotheca Baltica (BB) collaborates with many organizations both in the public and the private sector in the Baltic Region.

One of its more distinguished partners is the Baltic Sea Library which seeks to celebrate the literary diversity of the region by providing digital access to the region's literary heritage in languages intrinsic to its culture and traditions.

This is a huge undertaking as each Baltic state has its own language, therefore requiring, first and foremost, translators and linguistic experts. The project is in its inception phase at present and it is envisioned to be long-termed, but this should not deter us from pursuing it. As always, some of the biggest challenges are financial.

Another significant project is our newly launched BB Think Tank, initiated at the beginning of the year with a workshop in Vilnius.

A working group, responsible for defining the aims of the project, is being assembled. The goal is better collaboration within the library sector and with other sectors to promote Digital Europe, as well as other digital endeavours in the Baltic Sea region.

The initiative is the result of cooperative efforts on the part of libraries, information science experts, research scholars, industry executives and other pivotal persons working with the further development of information societies and knowledge economies.

In our next newsletter and at our session at the IFLA conference in August we will present both projects in greater detail.

The Bibliotheca Baltica Board would be grateful for comments on the following preparatory paper. Please comment to the secretary juergen.warmbrunn@herder-institut.de , or to the discussion list (see page 9).

Gunnar Sahlin

Bibliotheca Baltica (preparatory paper for an EU-application)

Two initial questions – why did we choose :

1. *BIBLIOTHECA* / libraries ?
2. *BALTICA* / Baltic Sea region?

Libraries:

1. because libraries are “seismographs” of technical, social, political and economic changes
2. because libraries proved within the last 20 years that they are able to react flexibly on these changes
3. because libraries face technical challenges as well as those in terms of education policies
4. because libraries act local – but think global

Baltic Sea region:

An interesting region within the European Union – because of

1. different political aspects/systems (see e.g. Russia and Kaliningradsko oblast)
2. different economical systems / aspects
3. cultural diversity

The Baltic region definitely is heterogeneous – and so the 11 Baltic countries share joint as well as separating experiences in terms of history (see war and post-war times), economic status, language and culture. But they all share the experience and the influence of the Baltic Sea.

Application:

A. Objectives of the libraries of the Baltic Sea countries:

- Contribution to the idea of a “Europe of regions” (Europa der Regionen) – that regards heterogeneity as a chance
- To form a strategic plan for sustainable cooperation between different countries of the Baltic region in the fields of culture, knowledge and education
- To communicate best-practise-examples as “success stories”

B. 3 levels of the project:

1. nucleus = The **Virtual Baltic Sea Library** as joint and freely accessible platform in order to form a common cultural identity within the Baltic Sea region as a whole
 - collection of relevant texts of all Baltic Sea countries
 - translation into all languages of the partaking countries
 - exchange/meetings/conferences between writers, translators, publishers...
2. **National libraries and special libraries:**
 - Preservation, digitization and presentation of special and unique collections, rare books, national heritage
 - Establishment of joint Virtual Research Environments (see also Augmented Reality Library, Hybrid Library, pervasive/ubiquitous computing, tangible books/shelves...)
 - Joint attitude towards Open Access, E-publishing and copyright

3. Focusing **Information Literacy** as basis for **Lifelong Learning (LLL)** :
Libraries as important part of a support-structure of LLL:

How to find the “treasures” (knowledge and culture) of libraries in a “google-ised” world with rapid technical development ?

- Libraries as centres of information managing / information broking (“Info-station”) – see also Social networking
- Libraries as “Information and Literacy Competence Centres”
- Libraries as “Open Learning centres“ with all aspects of “blended learning” – by creating sustainable partnerships with schools and adult education centres (see also aspects of illiteracy)

Bettina Twrsnick, Phantastische Bibliothek, Wetzlar



Bibliotheca Baltica's new discussion-list -

A cordial invitation to actively participate in a fast exchange of information within Bibliotheca Baltica

Like many organizations Bibliotheca Baltica is faced with the constant challenge of maintaining contact with its members in ten different countries around the Baltic Sea and of involving them as best as possible in the running of this international working group. Two more traditional ways of achieving this aim are the association's website (<http://baltica.lnb.lv>) and the printed newsletter, which is published once or twice per year. Each newsletter, by the way, is also freely available as a pdf-document via the Bibliotheca Baltica website immediately after its publication in print – an indication of Bibliotheca Baltica's commitment to Open Access especially as far as professional information for library and information specialists is concerned.

For information to appear either on the website or in the newsletter it takes some time, however, and so Bibliotheca Baltica has come up with the idea of an electronic mailing- or discussion-list, which is primarily aimed at its member libraries but also open to other interested persons and institutions on request. It is maintained at the Computer Centre of Marburg University in Germany and the sender's address is therefore bibliotheca-baltica-request@lists.uni-marburg.

The discussion list will hopefully stimulate the exchange of current, up-to-date information on all kinds of subjects related to librarianship, knowledge management, information dissemination and cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region. All member libraries are therefore encouraged to make the discussion-list an integral part of their

channels for information aimed at the library and information community as well as the interested public. It can also be used as a direct way to pose questions to member libraries, to make available calls for paper and other conference related news items, to issue invitations for exhibitions, to look for project partners etc. Last but certainly not least the discussion-list will also be used to disseminate information regarding the Bibliotheca Baltica symposia and general assemblies.

All individuals and institutions wishing to join the discussion list or to ask Bibliotheca Baltica's secretary to post some news relevant to Bibliotheca Baltica and its activities on their behalf are kindly requested to contact the present secretary, Juergen Warmbrunn (juergen.warmbrunn@herder-institut.de). Please contact him also if you have any further questions regarding the list or suggestions for its further development.

Since the Bibliotheca Baltica list is only open to registered members we hope that it will carry neither spam nor commercial advertisements.

Jürgen Warmbrunn

From parchments to database: the challenges of digital content production

Liisa Savolainen, Director, Research Library, National Library of Finland



The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of a project for digital content production, from the initial idea to the final product. I will be describing the comprehensive nature of content production and the challenges facing a traditional library organisation as it moves into the world of digital production.

The National Library's service production is based on long-term processes that may span several centuries. The rhythm of the organisation depends on the progress of processes and customer commissions. The National Library's core competencies lie in library work, in other words, in content, metadata, acquisitions as well as customer knowledge and service. All of these competence areas require some IT skills.

Digital content production takes place in projects, and many of the problems addressed are unique. Each project is assigned the required skills resources, and a clear objective as well as cost and timetable restrictions are specified. Projects also have a designated leader and an organisational structure. As most projects focus heavily on information technology, a profound knowledge of content and operations must be integrated with technical skills. Crucially, technology must be exploited to

produce solutions that best serve users. As the skills, mentality and work environments of project staff vary considerably, everyone must be willing to compromise and reach a consensus. Ideally, end users should also be involved in development work from the outset.

In its strategic plan, the National Library has set digital content production and research partnerships as its objectives. The parchment project described here can help us examine the practical implications of adjusting the National Library's direction and methods in the coming years.

Towards a digital research database

The initiative for providing digital access to parchments came from the scholarly community, and the Sanoma Foundation provided most of the funding. The same material was also used to produce the National Library's Literary Middle Ages online publication together with Dr Tuomas Heikkilä's team, which studies mediaeval Finnish literature.

The National Library's collection of parchment fragments was used as the source material for the above publication. Using the collection requires much work, for it includes close to 10,000 fragments, or pieces of mediaeval manuscripts. The original manuscripts were cut apart at the beginning of the Reformation and reused, for example, as the covers of bailiffs' account books. At the end of the 19th century, the parchment fragments were recognised as parts of mediaeval manuscripts and began to be collected. The National Library currently preserves and protects most of the Finnish fragments, which constitute a collection entitled *Fragmenta membranea*.

The collection has been studied with a focus on identification for over one hundred years. Scholars have identified the original works from which the fragments come and have subsequently also documented the collection. Toivo Haapanen conducted this work in the 1920s and 1930s, Anja-Inkeri Lehtinen from the 1970s onwards, Ilkka Taitto from the 1990s to the 2000s and Tuomas Heikkilä's research group in the late 2000s. Some 1,500 fragments still remain unidentified.

The collection is difficult to use, as the fragments easily become disorganised and are in poor condition. Users must be familiar with printed catalogues and be able to use them. Consequently, conserving and digitising the material was thoroughly justified, not to mention useful to scholars. The digital copies offered to customers protect the fragile original material from wear and tear, and the public interface offers more search features.

Beginning with an overview

The first step in the parchment database project was to establish an overview of the material and the task ahead. Dr Heikkilä's team, the staff of the National Library's manuscript unit and the project leadership discussed related issues on several occasions to outline the project objective – the creation of a digital research database – and its requirements in concrete terms.

One of the challenges for the project participants was to familiarise themselves with the content of the collection. Although everyone understood the general nature of the material, they had to determine how the parchments had been organised, how they would be built into a database, which data would constitute a single data set, what kinds of data elements would be created and how searchability and usability would be optimised. As the collection had previously been partially catalogued, the first task was to determine how this information could be used in constructing the database. Other issues to be addressed were how to transport material to Mikkeli for conservation and digitisation, what instructions to give to the digitisers, and how to ensure that the challenging material would remain organised and protected throughout the project.

The original plan relied on using the parchment database of the National Archives of Sweden as a platform for storing metadata during the cataloguing. Careful analysis showed, however, that the Swedish database was technically obsolete and unsuited for further processing, which meant that the project had to construct its own database, including all data element specifications. It also became apparent early on that database construction would require cataloguing staff proficient in mediaeval Latin, whose salary costs had not been included in the original project plan.

End users determine functions

After rethinking the original plans, the project had to start with the design of a metadata scheme and data storage format. The database structure and functions were designed together with Dr Heikkilä's research group, whose members explained how the database should function. Working with the library experts, the scholars defined what type of metadata should be stored and how customers should be able to combine various metadata elements to search for information.

A fairly restricted option was chosen for the storage of the metadata in the database. For example, keywords in published catalogues were excluded. Instead, the published catalogues were digitised in conjunction with the database, and catalogue descriptions and database references were linked.

As the cataloguing progressed, the material began to be submitted for conservation and digitisation. Items cannot be submitted for digitisation – scanning – before they have been assigned a digital identifier, which remains associated with each digital object all the way to the final database. As the National Library had never before scanned mediaeval manuscripts, it had to begin by determining a metadata package for this “new” type of material.

Finally, after the metadata packages had been scanned and created, the digital objects and the metadata packages were sent to Helsinki to be made available to the public. At this point, the scholars were again consulted to determine the following features of the public interface, or the final product: the resolution, downloading, browseability and searchability of the digital objects as well as the usability, appearance and help texts of the final product. The project had reached its final stage after three years of hard work.

A shared vision ensures quality

The main contribution of the parchment project relates to its comprehensiveness: it not only combined almost all of the National Library's skills areas, but also engaged users – scholars – in the design process to ensure a successful final product. Due to the challenging nature of the material, creating the final product required more than just general knowledge of digitisation or a command of the production process. The project also required various competencies, and experts in different fields had to genuinely trust and cooperate with each other.

To digitise the National Library's other unique materials and provide online access to them, each future project must be specifically tailored to the material involved. Mass digitisation is appropriate for journals and traditional books in their current format, but the older the material, the more unstructured it is and the more important it is to understand its special features. Digital content production at the National Library cannot constitute mass digitisation alone; the construction of digital bodies of interesting material requires the continuous adjustment of digitisation processes as well as profound knowledge of the materials and customers. By emphasising content and customer knowledge, project staff can better understand user needs from the outset and gain an insight into their impact on different parts of the project.

From process to project

The production of the parchment database was a positive learning experience for the National Library. It brought about a new understanding of the creation of products for end users along with the skills needed and the costs incurred. I am particularly pleased that the final product was completed almost on time and that the objectives set were achieved. The cost information obtained during the project will also be valuable in planning future projects.

Regrettably, core budget funding is inadequate for undertaking similar production processes despite interesting bodies of material and requests from scholars. We will continue to need private funders willing to invest in the provision of digital access to unique materials.

However, even when separate funding is available, content production projects (including their leadership as well as metadata production, product design, the provision of access and the continuous maintenance of the final product) must be completed alongside regular library duties. This is also a good thing, as the staff can develop their skills and the National Library retains their competence. In addition, separate funding can at least partly be used to release staff from their core duties. Hence, separately funded projects also have an effect on employment, as professionals (often young ones) need to be hired for core duties.

Digital content production projects mean that the National Library must accommodate a fixed-term "inter-library" project within its normal service provision. Almost all project participants also have their own duties, which must be handled flexibly.

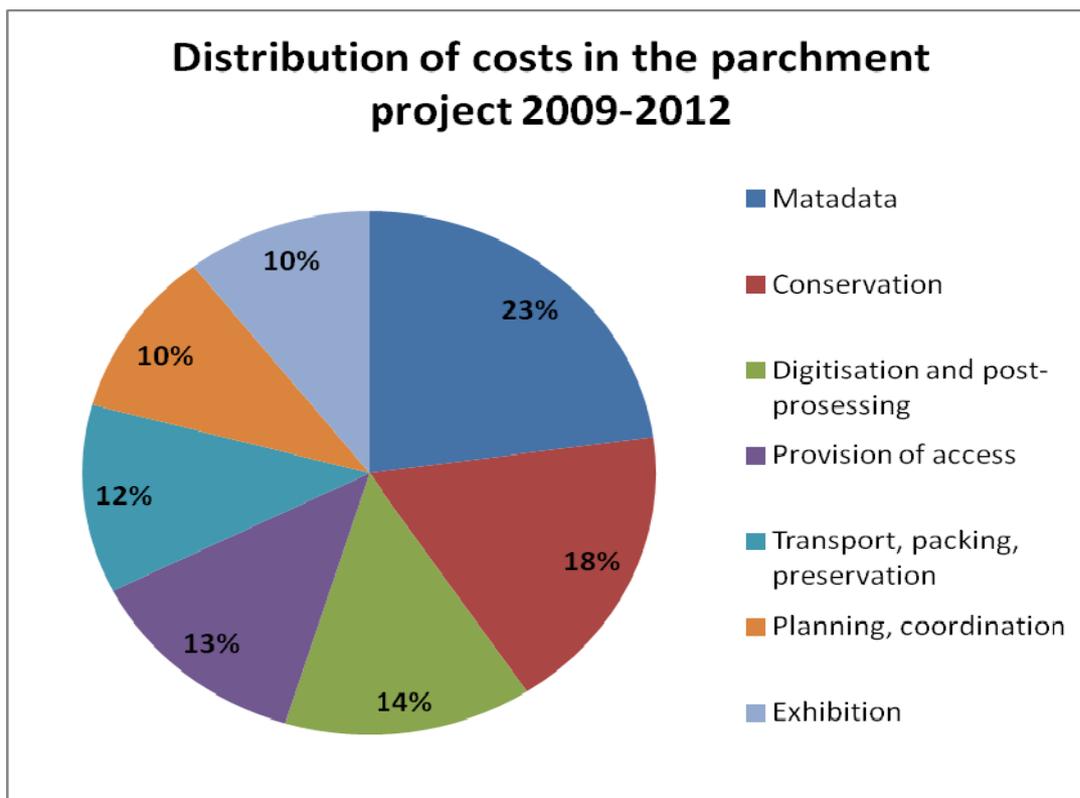
Individual employees and units may have to grapple with prioritisation issues or conflicts, despite the employment of new staff.

Consequently, the strategy of the National Library as a digital content producer should entail the adjustment of skills, organisational structures and leadership in a more project-based direction. The transition from traditional library work to project work is a major one, as project participants are more dependent on each other than they would be as traditional service providers. Success in each area depends directly on other participants' performance. Moreover, project-based work requires the constant resolution of new, possibly unique problems, the ability to compromise and flexibility. Project success depends on a shared goal and vision. Strong leadership must also be accepted, and each expert must understand that the purpose of his or her participation is simply to ensure a successful outcome for the project as a whole.

Parchment database: <http://fragmenta.kansalliskirjasto.fi/>.

Online publication:

<http://keskiaika.kansalliskirjasto.fi/publication:http://keskiaika.kansalliskirjasto.fi/>



Museum Night in the National Library of Estonia



Photo: Teet Malsroos, National Library of Estonia

On 19 May 2012 the National Library of Estonia was among the numerous Estonian memory institutions who stayed open for free visits between 18.00-23.00 during the Museum Night, coordinated by the Estonian Museums Society. This year the event was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Estonian film and held under the topic „The Night with the Cinema”.

The National Library celebrated the Estonian film by showing a black comedy thriller from 1993 „Tallinn in the Dark” (directed by Ilkka Järvilaturi). The Library building had been one of the main shooting locations, acting as the Bank of Estonia during the delivery of the Estonian gold reserve. The film was introduced by producer Margus Õunapuu who had worked as assistant to the art director during the film shooting.

Visitors could also enjoy seven exhibitions. The olympic exhibition in the Main Exhibition Hall was titled „For the First Time in London!” (although London is going to host the olympic games already for the 3rd time, Estonian olympic athletes have not yet competed in this city). The exhibition gave an overview of the history of the olympics, Estonian olympic athletes and introduced London as the next olympic venue. For children who came to the Library that night, our Museum Night team arranged a drawing competition „A Picture for the Olympic Book”.

A notable exhibition was offered for visitors in the Rare Books Exhibition Hall – „Estonian Binders’ Labels 1840-1940” is dedicated to all Estonian bookbinders through the ages and has been on display since the end of April. During the Museum Night visitors could enjoy the explanations of the author of the display Inder Oper who works as a book restorer at the National Library of Estonia. This is the very first time in Estonian book history when an overview of labels which were used by binderies and binding masters to mark their works has been compiled. Binder’s labels

(a typographic sticker, a printed mark, a stamp impression, a handwritten note, or a monogram in the ornament impression) are found on the front and back covers, the spine of a book, a flyleaf, or the edge of a textblock – all these examples are represented at our exhibition. Behind every label there is a bookbinder and his story, and with no label the binding sadly remains anonymous – this gives the binder's label an important role in the history of books and culture. The exhibition is supported by a book with the same title which belongs to the series *Treasures of the National Library of Estonia* and can be ordered from the Library: <http://www.nlib.ee/exhibition-and-the-accompanying-book-to-introduce-estonian-binders-labels/>

Other events offered in the Library during the Museum Night included guided tours to stackrooms and reading rooms which were very popular. The Library's cafeteria and bookshops were also open.

The Museum Night was first celebrated in Estonia in 2009, the National Library joined in the next year. The Museum Night of 2012 brought 70 000 people to the 200 Estonian memory institutions who had opened their doors for this special event; the National Library of Estonia received over 300 visitors.

In mid-June the Library will close for extensive renovations, planned to last until the end of August 2012. The Bibliotheca Baltica symposium on 25-26 October can enjoy the fresh look and improved facilities of the National Library of Estonia.



Photo: Teet Malsroos, National Library of Estonia

