

2011

ANNUAL NARRATIVE



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK



BOOK A
LIBRARIAN

SECONDARY
SCHOOL CORP

INFORMATION
LITERACY

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

WELCOME

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK: A NATURAL PART OF YOUR STUDIES



The library is a neutral institution without any public authority, which supports democracy, freedom of thought, education, and the development of independent thought. Libraries work for free and equal access to information. These possibilities and intentions are often overlooked. We need to work hard, constantly and constructively to preserve and enhance the acknowledgement of the part which libraries play in democratic societies.

Eli Greve, vice president of the Danish Research Library Association and librarian at the University Library of Southern Denmark

These words were written by an employee of the University Library of Southern Denmark in our internal news sheet. They were chosen for the introduction to this annual narrative because they express the importance of the work that everyone at the University Library of Southern Denmark does every day.

The University Library of Southern Denmark is a public library. This means that anybody can become a borrower. We are also a research

library. Therefore it is our task to offer services to the University of Southern Denmark within all those areas in which a library can provide access to relevant information for students, lecturers, and researchers at SDU through user-friendly systems and high-quality instruction.

In this annual narrative you can read about our extensive collaboration with secondary schools in the region of Southern Denmark. We also focus on our many international students. Information

literacy is, of course, a pet area of ours, so this will get its own section. Students from SDU tell about their encounter with a librarian, and our history expert describes some of the treasures that we keep in our basement stacks.

All these materials and offers are there for you, whether you are a student, a lecturer, a researcher, or a private person who uses our facilities.

Everybody is welcome.

COLOPHON

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FRONTPAGE



Work of art "Immersion" ("Fordybelse") by Jens Galschiøt in 1989. The work of art, made of bronze, was granted the University Library by the fund of engineer N.M. Knudsen in 1990. "Immersion" is placed at the Information room at Campusvej, Odense.

5 CITIES - ONE LIBRARY



Sønderborg



Kolding



Campusvej Odense



Slagelse



Esbjerg

5 CITIES - ONE LIBRARY:

The University Library of Southern Denmark is found on all SDU campuses. We offer the same services and instruction in all places.

The loans of physical materials grow steadily fewer, but the use of electronic resources grows greater all the time: The library buys access to more and more electronic resources, among them are our e-books, with a growth of 25 per cent from 2010 to 2011. The download of e-books was nine times as big in 2011 as in 2009.

The library has 1.567.000 printed books and journals. Our electronic journals number 70.077 titles, as against 59.400 in 2010, and we have 173.000 e-book titles.

We provide access to 490 databases, and most of the electronic materials can be used at home or wherever you may be, through remote access.

In 2010 the number of loans of books and journals was 248.600, some 30.000 of them via inter-library loans from libraries in Denmark or other countries. Our users downloaded 1.193.000 journal articles and 365.000 e-books in 2010. 4.286.000 database searches were made in 2010. The number of electronic resources keeps growing.

NEW CAMPUS SLAGELSE

On the 1st of January, 2011, SDU Slagelse opened the doors of its new building, which is placed right at Platform One on the railroad station. On the 4th of April, the building had its grand official opening attended by Princess Marie.

The library is placed centrally in the building, on the first floor by the main entrance.



BOOK A LIBRARIAN



LIBRARIANS ON LOAN

The University Library of Southern Denmark lends books – but our librarians are also for loan, to show you how to do a competent search for high-quality sources if you need help to get a paper started. Without source materials, there won't be any paper.

To many students, getting started on a paper can be difficult. The library offers help: With a little introduction, a few hints, and some effort, you will find a wealth of materials, ready for you to use for your paper or project.

“We know that it is hard to get started doing searches in the library's enormous amount of materials without assistance”, says librarian Merete Marbjerg. She helped launch the service “Book a Librarian” at the University Library of Southern Denmark.

“When a student books a librarian, we find somebody who is competent to instruct in searches within the subject area in question. Book a librarian is a service which provides a tailored solution, offering both help with search strategies and search tools, and help from a person who has specific knowledge of the area and the relevant databases”, Merete Marbjerg says.

The instruction will usually last 30 minutes, and individuals or groups of students can ask for a session. The instruction always takes its starting point in the needs of the person who makes the booking.

“What usually happens is that we help people start their search process, show them how to do a subject search in the library catalogue, and look at a few relevant databases. We see the ‘Book a Librarian’ service making students aware of how much relevant material we can offer them for their study”, Merete Marbjerg says.

The ‘Book a Librarian’ service is also offered to University lecturers, who may need assistance to search for background literature or research articles, or help to use programs for managing references.



EXAMPLES

The service is used by both students and lecturers. Their requests touch on a large spectrum of topics. Here are a few examples:

“B.A. thesis on the Massacre at Stockholm in 1521, with particular focus on legal history”.

“The evolution of American TV-series and their influence on youth culture. Especially such topics as culture, media, the TV-medium, analyses of TV-series, the learning process”.

“Taking my starting point in the Veriditas Labyrinth Project at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco – the labyrinth as a spiritual tool – I want to show the connection between the project and feminist religion. I need help to find relevant materials on feminist religion”.

USE IS RISING STEADILY

The University of Southern Denmark launched the 'Book a Librarian' service in May 2006. Since then, the number of requests has been rising steadily: In 2009 413 students and lectures used the service, in 2010 the number was 567, and by 2011 the number rose to 611 preordered sessions.

MEET THE USERS



TOBIAS MARLING

– POSTGRADUATE, SPORTS

SCIENCE AND HEALTH SCIENCE:

Tobias has received instruction in searching for articles in databases and journals while writing his M.A. thesis.

I have learned some good ways of doing methodical searches when looking for relevant articles. Knowing how to make a competent search

makes me feel more confident, and I have searched really thoroughly for articles on my topic. The articles I have found contain very important background material for my thesis.

I heard about the Book a Librarian service from other students who have used it and been satisfied with the help they got. My expectations have been met, and I have had good instruction on how to search methodically for articles. The knowledge of how to search databases methodically and scientifically would have been useful earlier in my studies as well.

SØREN ANDKJÆR

– SENIOR LECTURER AT THE

INSTITUTE OF SPORTS SCIENCE
AND CLINICAL BIOMECHANICS:

Søren has been shown how to use the reference program End Note.

I used the program End Note while writing my Ph.D. dissertation, but did not get to know it well enough, and needed an update on how to

import references from databases, among other things. I was received well and got help which focused on my own needs and wishes.

Book a Librarian is a good service, which I got a lot out of using. I feel that the library supports my work well, but this service should perhaps be advertised more strongly, for I am sure that many people would find it an advantage to get instruction on doing well-structured information searches and handling references.



DITTE MARIA HOVMAND

– STUDENT IN INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS COMMUNICATION:

Ditte is in her fifth semester, studying English and German business communication. She has had help for a paper on the election system of the Swiss Cantons.

It has become clear to me that Google is not enough at all when you are going on to the higher levels of your study. So I was glad to have my views broadened and to see the huge number of sources that students have access to here. I was surprised at the sheer amount of material, and at how advanced its level is. I am glad to have had an introduction now, and will use Book a Librarian again when I begin my B.A. thesis.

SECONDARY SCHOOL COLLABORATION



SAMPLING UNIVERSITY LIFE

Over the last two years, more than a thousand upper secondary school pupils have had a sample of university studies through visiting the University Library. And this may give them a chance to get ahead of others.

What does a university look like from inside? How do you use the search facilities and then find the book you want on the shelf at the University Library, among all those thousands of books? These are among the things that upper secondary school pupils find out when visiting the University Library of Southern Denmark.

“Having been here, tried out the possibilities and having got a result gives the pupils a feeling of security”, says Tonny Hornbæk, who is a librarian at the University Library of Southern Denmark and responsible for organizing the extensive collaboration between the library and upper secondary schools over the last two years.

“We want the pupils to leave with an idea of what challenges they will meet with when they begin a university study. Of course, the requirements will be greater, and that’s how it should be. But we also want them to know how many possibilities they will have – including

getting help from competent persons”, Tonny Hornbæk says.

During 2012, the University Library of Southern Denmark, working with the Registrar’s Office and various University Institutes, will open its doors to the largest number of secondary school pupils ever. In February, we expect more than a thousand pupils to visit us during a period of only six days, when working on their AT- paper (a paper preparing them for further studies).

Ready, get set, search!

Besides arranging the visits for the pupils at the library, Tonny Hornbæk goes out to upper secondary schools in the region of Southern Denmark to teach pupils about search strategies.

He sees this as a great advantage for the universities, as pupils will learn how to do a good search while still in secondary school.

“When secondary school pupils have learned some basic search techniques

and know how to do a subject search and use databases, we can start unfolding their subjects to them at a much more advanced level than before”, Tonny Hornbæk says, adding, “We show them a sample of what they will find at a university library, and what university studies are like. The purpose is getting more people to choose a university study when they finish upper secondary school”.

That purpose lies behind the idea that Thomas Kaarsted, Head of Users Services, had of telling upper secondary schools what the University Library of Southern Denmark has to offer them.

“Earlier, each area of study at a university had its standard works, but a new standard tool for studying is knowing how to search for information. We can help the pupils with their papers, and those students who have already learned this before they begin their studies have an advantage”, Thomas Kaarsted says.



SECONDARY SCHOOL COLLABORATION

A STUDY CENTRE WITH A PURPOSE

Pupils at Alssundgymnasiet in Sønderborg have access to a library and study center, which is run by the school and the University Library of Southern Denmark in collaboration. This is the first collaboration of its kind in Denmark

The first-ever university library placed at an upper secondary school in Denmark is found in Sønderborg. Here pupils and teachers can get professional instruction on how to find their way around large amounts of relevant literature and databases for their papers and courses.

The library, or Study Centre as its name is, has two librarians from Alssund Gymnasiet. Helle Mortensen Sevelsted is the University Library's representative. Once or twice a week, she is there to help pupils at the Study Centre, and she teaches classes on information searching as well.

“Instructing the pupils on how to do searches is exciting, and so is seeing the ‘aha moments’ they experience when they realise how much the search techniques will let them do. Some of them return to the Study Centre afterwards to

do searches and get help. We see clearly how the class instruction makes more pupils want to use the Study Centre, and they prepare themselves before showing up”, says Helle Mortensen Sevelsted.

It is not just the class instruction that makes more customers turn up at the Study Centre; the grapevine plays a part, too:

“When the 3rd year pupils had had instruction on doing information searches, 1st year pupils began showing up at the Study Centre, because they had heard that there was help to be had. We are still in the initial phase, but the knowledge is clearly spreading,” says Pia Bech, librarian at the Study Centre.

Earlier, the library was used mostly by teachers. But Alssundgymnasiet changed it into a study center staffed by librarians, and the Study Centre

now serves the pupils as well. For instance, teachers can get help finding current articles for their classes.

FACTS

- The collaboration between Alssundgymnasiet and the University Library of Southern Denmark began on the 1st of January 2010. This is the first collaboration between a university library and an upper secondary school in this country.
- An academic employee from the University Library of Southern Denmark works at the Study Centre one or two days a week, teaching pupils how to do information searches. Alssundgymnasiet has two employees with a background in library studies, who run the Centre on a day-to-day basis.



SECONDARY SCHOOL COLLABORATION

A VALUABLE COLLABORATION

“We decided to develop the library into a Study Centre as part of a process of redefining the role of the library into being a provider of instruction”, says Per Møller, principal of Alssundgymnasiet.

One of the reasons for this decision is the reform of the upper secondary school system of 2005, which focuses on interdisciplinarity and on preparing pupils for their future studies.

“In this, university libraries are good and natural helpers, as they have competences in instruction and information search which are useful for both pupils and teachers”, Per Møller says.

Upper secondary schools prepare pupils for studying in general. This means that the pupils are to be taught knowledge and competences that they will need in higher education.

“Upper secondary schools must teach the pupils about the methods and materials they need to manage projects and papers. The Study Centre supports this, and the University Library complements their services. The pupils acquire practical knowledge about searching for information, and learn how to look critically at the results and evaluate the relevance of the information they find”, Per Møller says.

This collaboration is new, and it is still being developed. The principal would like to see the Study Centre as a more integral part of the teaching in future.

“Our aim is to have the Study Centre becoming a natural part of the teaching and giving a valuable input in teaching and exercises to both pupils and teachers in their everyday work. Instruction and information searches are the core areas”, Per Møller says.



THE BEST MATERIALS

FIDAN SAHATI IS IN HIS FINAL YEAR AT ALSSUNDGYMNASIET (UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL):

Fidan is writing his SRP paper (a project with relevance to future studies) and has chosen to combine mathematics and physics.



I am glad that the library is right here at the school, and that the librarians are here to help us. I can get the materials I need quickly, and the service is good. In my year, we have been taught how to search for information in class, and it's really good to know a method to search for the material I need. I have learned to do subject searches and to choose specific words to get something relevant. In particular, I have discovered that searching takes a lot more time than I thought it would.

It's important to know how to do good information searches, for you can find lots of things on the Web,

but most of them are not really relevant. I like trying to find the best background materials for the subject I am going to write about.

I have learned to use SkoDa (Skolernes Databaseservice; a website with a collection of relevant databases for first and secondary schools – ed.), and have found some articles, and I have also had help finding the books I am going to need. I think these things would have been hard to find without help from the library. I expect that I can use the things I have learned on searching for information when I start a university study.

INFORMATION LITERACY

IL IS THE NEW IQ

Information Literacy is the ability to find, evaluate and use information on any given topic. Anyone can learn, and at the University Library of Southern Denmark, we can teach you.

Without source materials, you can't write a paper. When Google lets you down, the university library can help you learn how to search competently and find high-quality material. Any good paper starts with good source materials.

At the University Library of Southern Denmark we will show you what information literacy is and how to use it in your studies. Acquiring IL will help you build knowledge on your own. You will learn how to select and use information critically, and this will help you transform information into knowledge.

An example: Instead of searching at random and hoping for the best, you should start by making a strategy for your search. Consider which results you want, which search terms you are going to use, where to search, what to do if you do not get enough material – or if you get far too much. Your strategy is your plan for how to proceed. A good search strategy will help you structure your paper, because you will have to think systematically about which kind of material you want in order to answer the problem formulation. And once you have done this, the process will look less complicated.

“The contact we have with students via teaching, book a librarian and the daily encounters at the libraries, shows us that the students are really glad to learn about

information literacy and see it as very useful knowledge, both when they are writing papers and in their studies generally. We would like students to think of the library as an integrated part of their studies, a place where they learn and get new competences”, says Thomas Kaarsted, Head of Users Services.

Mastering information literacy demands an effort.

Academic journal databases may not be easy to use right away, because of the huge number of articles they contain, which can be searched for by means of descriptors (terms describing the content) added to the posts. You will be learning-by-doing in the old-fashioned way, in which practice makes more and more perfect. As a result, you will learn how to find and use information methodically and systematically.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

During the last few years, more and more international students have come to study at SDU. At the library, we would like to help this group of students get a useful and pleasant stay in Denmark.

As the number of foreign students has increased at the University, the University Library of Southern Denmark has spent part of 2011 focusing on what these students want from the library.

“The library supports the University wherever possible. Therefore we think it is quite natural to take a look at what extra efforts we can make to help foreign students especially”, says Chief Librarian Aase Lindahl.

In May 2011 the university library had a special project day, with an arrangement called “Seminar on cultural diversity”. This took place in Sønderborg, where no less than 60 per cent of the students are from abroad. This gave foreign students and employees a possibility to suggest improvements that would make the services of the library more useful to them.

A number of innovations has resulted. Among them is a tab

on the homepage aimed at welcoming new students from abroad. In Sønderborg and at the Technical Library in Odense, new Comfort Zones for international students have been put up during 2011. They are areas for relaxing, reading, and chatting with other students. A number of magazines in English and popular Danish fiction in English translations are also placed here. Furthermore, the library has hosted two seminars on cultural diversity, featuring anthropologist Dennis Nørmark (more about this on the next page).

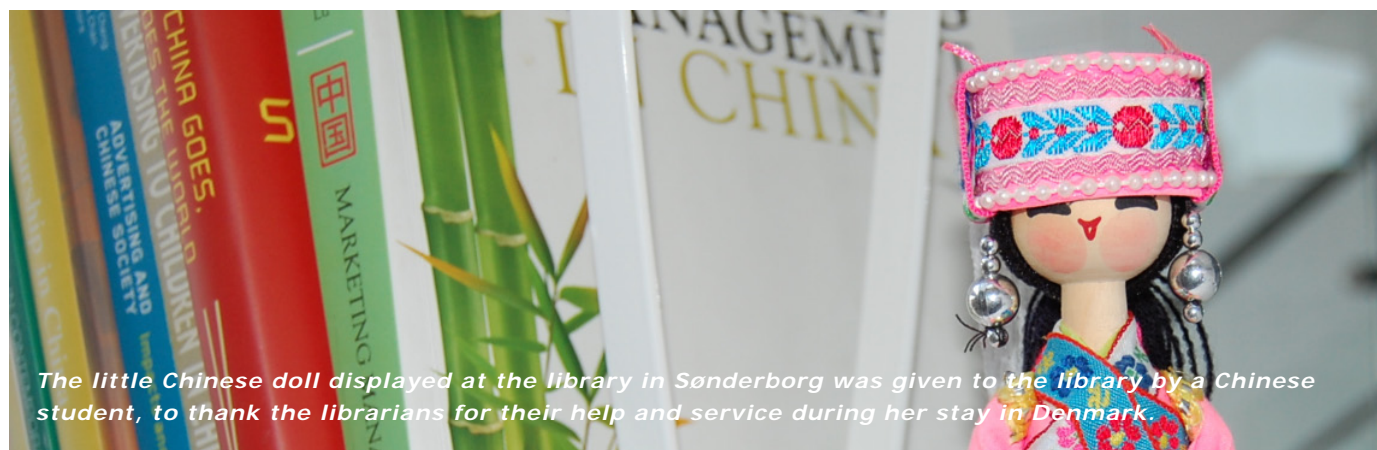
“No matter where students come from, we want them to feel welcome at the library, and to feel that they belong here. This demands something from our communication and public relations, especially as we are meeting international students who may have different ideas of that libraries are and how to use them. In the future, our signs and other information materials will be in both English and Danish,

and information on the library will be added to the package that the University sends to new international students to welcome them”, says academic employee Helle Mortensen Sevelsted.

“

Foreign students use the library as a place to work. Our self-study courses on the Danish language are popular. And they will ask us about anything, such as how to find the police station or the municipal center. This is great, because it shows that they think of us as a place to go to for help. And we are happy to help with these things too.

Kenneth Christiansen, campus librarian in Sønderborg



The little Chinese doll displayed at the library in Sønderborg was given to the library by a Chinese student, to thank the librarians for their help and service during her stay in Denmark.

MEET THE USERS



PLAMENA ATANASSOVA IS FROM BULGARIA AND HAS SPENT THREE YEARS IN DENMARK. SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON AN M.A. IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIPS:

At first, my greatest problem was to learn how to manage my time on my own. Studying in Denmark requires a responsible and independent way of working. There are no weekly papers and constant assessments. On the contrary, I myself have to make sure that I have read enough during term time, because otherwise there won't be time for reading enough before the exams. This is very different from the kind of teaching that I am used to.

The opening hours suit me well, and it is a good place to go and work. I was pleasantly surprised to see the number of databases the library provides access to – there are materials from all over the world. I can't imagine studying without using the university library. The librarians are very helpful and always ready to assist. I have had instruction in searching for information in databases and in finding the right bases. During one course I got here too late to find the book I needed, so someone had already borrowed it. Instead I got help with downloading the electronic version. The materials are very easy to get, and that is really good. I was also pleasantly surprised to find that the library will acquire materials if I need them.



WHY ARE THE DANES SO WEIRD?

Many foreign students in Denmark may have asked this question of themselves. At the University Library of Southern Denmark, we always try to find the answers when somebody asks something. Therefore, we invited anthropologist Dennis Nørmark to offer his suggestion. The seminar "Why

are the Danes so Weird? – How do you deal with the strangeness of the Danish "tribe"?" has been held twice in Sønderborg and once at the Technical Faculty in Odense in 2011. Both places have a large proportion of foreign students. The seminar dealt with the topics of cultural differences and

international students' encounter with Denmark and the Danes. The combination of facts on Danes and the ironical distance (a typical Danish trait) of the presentation made the speech both instructive and entertaining. Dennis Nørmark is an anthropologist and a senior consultant at Living Institute.



VERY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Danish Bible translation from 1550, politician Aksel Larsen's handwritten notes and dedicated first editions of writer Johannes V. Jensen's works are among the treasures guarded at the University Library.

The Laws of Zealand, published in 1575, Christian II's New Testament from 1524, and Christian III's Bible from 1550 are all found in the old collections from Herlufsholm Private School, held at the University Library of Southern Denmark. When Odense University Library (as it was called then) was newly founded and needed books to fill up the shelves, entire collections were bought when they were put up for sale. In 1968, the private school at Herlufsholm sold the major part of its book collection, and the University Library bought about 40.000 books from it.

Like large parts of the library's collections, these books have been placed in the closed stacks in the

basement, and although they are rarities, all can be borrowed.

“The library is not supposed to be a museum. The only restrictions are on materials which are for use in the reading room only. Books are fragile things, and we take particular care of the very valuable ones: that is part of our responsibility for our rare and valuable materials”, says Mogens Kragstig Jensen, subject specialist in history.

Among the books in the basement, there is also a collection previously belonging to Axel Larsen. It contains about 2000 books and pamphlets, and in some of them, his handwritten notes on the texts can be found.

Julius Bomholt (1896-1969), author, politician and journalist, left his private book collection and his archives to the municipality of Esbjerg, with a stipulation that if Esbjerg built a university, both books and archives were to be placed in it. Julius Bomholt's collection contains about 17.000 volumes, and is found in the University Library collection in Esbjerg. Among the books are first editions of the works of Johannes V. Jensen with the author's personal inscriptions, works on the history of the Labour movement, socialist writings from the 1930s, and works on the folk school movement.

Read more about the collections at www.sdu.dk/library

