

The Royal Library
National Library of Sweden
Annual report 1996 to CENL
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Despite very extensive internal and external changes, The Royal Library (KB) has been opened during 1996. And thus fulfilled its goals to be open with sufficient level of services despite a very hard situation.

Departments not so occupied by these changes have during the year got new and exciting tasks. The LIBRIS-department which is responsible for the nation-wide information system LIBRIS has got new duties. The LIBRIS-system has by the Ministry of Education, in the so called IT-proposal (May 1996) and the Research Proposal (September 1996), been put in a more holistic information- policy context. Within three years time the system should be reconstructed in a user-friendly and a more cost-effective way to fulfil new IT demands. It's also hoped to host all Swedish public and research libraries' collections. It will be used free of charge all over the nation through Internet. It's very encouraging and stimulating that the Royal Library has been entrusted with that task.

The Department for national planning and co-ordination (BIBSAM) has evaluated the development of the research libraries in the country in a similar study as the Follett Report. This evaluation shows some weaknesses in the system. A lot of the new University College Libraries are very poor financed, and The KB has proposed a lot of different actions to improve the situation. A special task in which the

The reconstruction of the library shows no delay. It will be completed in the beginning of next year and there will be a grand opening in June 1997.

As an addition to the physical reconstruction, the library has undergone a very radical internal reorganisation, as well. The aims of this difficult but important work were twofold. First, we would like to fit the new organisation of the library into the instructions and demands from our supervisors and users. The Government should be able to analyse the results and output of our services according to our different tasks. Second, the old organisation was settled 18 years ago and therefore had some very obvious shortcomings, and indeed an oldfashioned structure. The staff showed from the beginning great enthusiasm about the whole project and has very strongly been involved in the work which started late 1995, through working-groups, expert-groups and a decision-making board which included representatives from the trade-unions. A report was presented for the Board of the library at the end of May 1996 and the new organisation began to work from the 1st of July. Not a person was unaffected, and under late summer and autumn a totally new library grew up on the ruins of the old one, and in December all colleagues had found their new positions.

The new structure can be seen on [KB's homepages](#) (organizational scheme).

KB has been involved in immediately, is the problem concerning so called site-licenses for certain important Swedish and foreign databases. The negotiations will be finished during 1997. The KB has also actively supported Swedish participation in the EU library programme

The KB is hopefully now prepared to meet the new century and the challenges from the IT-revolution.

1997-05-21

Comments to webmaster: [Lena Jacobson](#)