Tonny Skovgård Jensen:
The Relevance of National Libraries for Society

Annual General Meeting 2022
19 - 21 June 2022
National Library of Türkiye, Ankara
The relevance of national libraries for society - a newcomer’s perspective

Tonny Skovgård Jensen
Royal Danish Library
Value creation

Which kind of value?
How much value?

Enlightenment,
Knowledge, understanding
Inspiration
Entertainment

Library
Activities
Royal Danish Library – a melting pot of mergers

— Royal Danish Library – a result of many mergers
- Today around 630 FTE
- 20 visiting locations in Denmark
- National library
- University library, full service, for several universities
- National library services for all research libraries: Academic e-resources, Library management system …
- Services for all public libraries

— Recent mergers …
- Royal Danish Library Copenhagen – national library and university library
- Statsbiblioteket Aarhus – university library and national library
- Universities own libraries, Copenhagen, Aarhus, Roskilde
- National cooperation agency for research libraries, academic e-resources
- National library of art and architecture
- Library for the central administration, ministries etc.
- Other special libraries: Drama, immaterial culture, gender studies
What is “national library” of all this?

And what is the relevance for society of that part?

— Economic resources
— IT
— Buildings
— Communication band with

— What is the value of the national library to society?  
  – An everyday question in the melting pot
Cultural Heritage – value creation

Realised value for society = usage (now or in the future)

Communication and mediation

Services – reading room, catalogue, online digital content etc.

Physical collections

Digital collections

Digitisation

Physical preservation

Meta data

Digital preservation

Acquisition

User value

Deliverables

Necessary processes

Potential value

User value

Deliverables

Necessary processes

Potential value
Direct and indirect value creation

Publishers, booksellers, public libraries, media, theatres, concert halls, talks, presentations….
Badehotellet

Dansk tv-serie.

EPISODE
1

ORIGINAL TITEL
Badehotellet

GENRE
Hovedgenre: Selver; Undergenres: Dramaserie; Emne: Historisk drama og biografier

STILLBILLEDER FRA UDSENDSELSEN

BESKRIVELSE
creating value

What counts?
What can be counted?
What can be explained?
Which tools are you using?
Cultural Heritage timeline

1650

Today

Our contribution from today
The "national library" part

— Just in case – rather than just in time
— Acquisition is not end-user oriented
  — Legal deposit – Danish, non-academic
  — Curators choice - Danish
  — Traditions
  — Old stuff – Danish and European
— Mostly not related to quality or demand
— For all researchers, and students – not just the universities we serve
— For citizens, professional creators of new works – books, music, architecture, art …
— For future users
— We keep it even if no one ever uses it
— We keep stuff for a very long time – even if nobody uses it
  — Many other organizations help to provide newer content and much used content
  — After 100 years we are the only ones who have it – that is our unique value