



UNIVERSIDAD
POLITECNICA
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**ESTUDIO COMPARATIVO DEL SISTEMA BIBLIOTECARIO
EN SUECIA Y ESPAÑA.**

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SWEDISH AND SPANISH
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Public libraries are understood as the international library typology: it is not all the libraries that depend on institutions or government (included here are the National Library, libraries in ministries, universities, museums, etc.), But libraries are serving a particular community, whether a neighborhood, village or city, district or region, and care, usually free of charge to all inhabitants, with funds on all subjects and are both centers information and cultural centers, encourage reading and provide support to formal education and independent study.

1.1 JUSTIFICATION OF THE ESSAY

The main reason which has brought me to carry out this essay has been that a study comparing Spanish library system and Swedish system has not been done before. It is necessary to add to this, my personal and professional interest because enjoying a practical scholarship in Sweden, has made me think about a lot of questions about the library tradition in this country and the big development that Scandinavian libraries have achieved in the last years, in this particular case, Swedish libraries. That is the reason why I think it will be interesting to obtain better knowledge about some aspects of those libraries. In addition, I will contribute with my personal view thanks to the practical experience at Swedish libraries as well as with the specific case of the Immigrant Institutet, where I was working.

One of the problems that I had to face was focusing the work, because I wanted to evaluate many aspects of the library system in both countries, so I had to find an estandar form to enclose and evaluate some aspects that I thought would be interesting.

Despite this work is quite descriptive, it is expected to contribute to increase the knowledge about the similarities and diffences between two countries and the way they manage their public library system.

If we think about which is the role that the libraries should play, they have an important mission to create a commitment in the culture and education in a country for the development of the society. For that reason, it is quite important the

government and library and information science studies involvement in the society (Library Spirit). So this is also the reason which it is wanted to build an report from which it is expected to show which are the weak and strong points of our library system against the Swedish system.

So, the best way to structure this work is offering an overview the library systems, comparing their development through the history, then go on to compare some aspects with the help of ISO indicators. I have selected ISO 2789 Information and documentation – International library statistics and ISO 11620 – Information and documentation – Library performance indicators, I have used each one of them to evaluate properly different points that I will explain later. To the end I considered relevant to emphasize the point of how the information technology has been put in the public libraries and which the situation nowadays is.

1.2 OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The main objective in this essay is trying to show which are the differences between Spanish library system and Swedish system, according to the ISO indicators chosen, in order to measure and compare the quality of both systems.

Taking this premise as the starting-point is my intention to reach these specific objectives:

- Giving an overview across the differences of both library Systems and Offering an overview about how the new technologies have been developed in each country.
- Explaining why Borås public library is a good model and example of a library.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY

The structure of the essay is how it follows:

- The justification and the objective of the essay are defined at the introduction section.
- A brief history and evolution of the library system in both countries up to nowadays is defined at current state of the issue section, giving us a retrospective view of how the procedures and changes have been carrying out in a different ways in Spain and Sweden.
- The materials which have been used in order to increase the knowledge about the library systems, statistics, and indicators are defined at the material section. The methodology that has been followed is defined at the methods section.
- The evaluation results will be showed at Analisis section.
- The drawn conclusions will be showed at the next section.
- The last section belongs to the references that have been used as a support in order to do this essay.
- To concluye with this essay there is an appendix with other documents.

2. CURRENT STATE OF THE ISSUE

The knowledge about knowing the reality of the public libraries in Spain compared with the advanced Scandinavian public library system has not been published up to now. This is the first time that it is offered a general overview about the situation and evolution of the Spanish and Swedish public library systems. It has been developed sectorial studies but just in a separated way, but with the tecnological development has allowed me to find, compile and analize the pieces of information that it is required to carry out this comparative.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1 MATERIAL

With regards to the material concerning to public libraries, it has been looked up mainly papers and work group papers that has been published by IFLA

To obtain the overview of the Swedish public library, the history, development and structure, various articles of experts have been consulted about Swedish Public Libraries, which are referenced in the bibliography section. The same has made for the Spanish public library system.

As previously mentioned, to obtain indicators, they used the standard ISO 2789 Information and documentation and ISO 11620 – Information and documentation – Library performance indicators. The indicators proposed by the IFLA in any of its bibliographies are inadequate because they are more appropriate to assess the services of a library in particular, and is not the purpose of this work.

To obtain the statistical data, it has been used the databases of the National Statistics Institute (henceforth INE) and statistical data on public libraries of the Culture Ministry of Spain (henceforth MCU). For the Swedish case, it has been used the data from Statistiska Centralbyrån statistics for public libraries.

3.2 METHODS

One of the purposes of using this methodology is to encourage meaningful and useful comparisons across different libraries system, which is why it is going to be estructured giving a general overview using the ISO 11620 Information and Documentation – Library Performance Indicators:

- 1. Mission, goals, and objectives on the library sistem.**
- 2. Main Governance structure.**
- 3. Resources.** Assets of the libraries including:
 - a. Staff**

- b.** Materials
- c.** Equipment
- d.** Loans per capita
- e.** Electronic services

4. Users and different users group.

5. Acces/Facilities. Information concerning about opening hours and equipment.

The ISO 2789:2003 Information and documentation - International library statistics indicators are going to be used in order to analyze some aspects of the resources that have been mentioned before.

The statistics that has been based on are from the year 2006 because they are the last reports that the National Institute of Statistics of Spain have on their data bases.

4. PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN SWEDEN AND SPAIN

4.1 HISTORY

Library and society are the policy in Sweden, but before comparing the organization's own Swedish library system, we must go back to the late nineteenth century in order to understand the evolution, philosophy and librarian tradition.

In the late years of 19th century in Sweden, the factory-owners founded libraries for their workers; they were called Working Classes libraries. At the same time in Spain, the public library system was born, originates in the famous Mendizábal's disentailment where Secondary Education Institutes were responsible for collecting the library from the sale, they formed the firsts libraries. Another reason was the reading needs of some social sectors.

The working classes libraries in Sweden were transformed into public libraries in the 1920-1930, and they were managed by the local authorities. It is necessary to say regarding this, that the swedish library system has not always been so uniform,

because there were three important popular movements of the public libraries, we can say that there were three main branches, on one side there was the Revival movement (free church), there was the temperate movement, and the third one was the workers movement.

At the same time in Spain, Spanish libraries had many problems, some of them were:

- The location, as it does not meet the needs of the rural population.
- Collections only responded to the needs of the educated classes.
- Lack of qualified personnel.
- Libraries are born with the burden of being conservative entities of disentanglement collection.

Despite this, it was created a network of libraries and a Body of Archivists and Librarians

The public libraries in Sweden and in the Nordic countries began to attract the international attention because their progress and achievements, the reason could be that they adopted the Anglo-American public library idea with the intense contact with EEUU because the emigration and with Great Britain through trade and the importation of technology. We can not say the same with other countries like Spain, France and Italy because they did not pass through the same process of qualitative and quantitative growth.

Public libraries in Sweden and Spain Today

Sweden in whole is divided into local government entities named municipalities. The current 290 municipalities are organized into 21 counties (Län). The municipal governments are responsible for large portion of local services like schools, emergency services and city planning [Wikipedia, 2009]. The huge development of public libraries in Sweden started about 1950s. The 75 percent of municipalities got in that time one or more new library buildings and ten of twenty-four county libraries got new premises for their main libraries. [Torstensson, Magnus, 1993]

From 1905 to 1965 direct state aid was given to public libraries in relation to their own expenditures. Since 1965 state aid has also been given, and in this case to a very limited extent, in certain special cases to encourage a local district with a poor library to improve it, or to support an important activity (such literature for ethnic minorities).

In Spain, from 1975 the library system changed, these changes were carried out with the new organization of government: moving from a centralized state to a state of the autonomies, so that libraries were also adapted to this new situation, both in the legal description in the Spanish Library System. Although libraries in Spain are experiencing a great development, especially when we talk about university libraries, still are missing the functions that public libraries should assume, that go far beyond the borrowing, reading and study aids to identifying the traditional library.

Nowadays a large number of Spanish public libraries has made it very aware of their tasks are social, cultural, and many programs and initiatives developed in this regard. With regard to information services, you can also see a great improvement over the situation just a few years ago. A large proportion of professionals in the Spanish public libraries are aware that the public library, in addition to providing reference service and traditional bibliographic information, it must also provide other information designed to cover a spectrum of needs and make them practical.

Although this idea has spread among some professionals and has been exhibited at various conferences, seminars, etc., especially those who in one way or another made reference to the new role of the public library in society information, not found a significant volume of literature on the specific topic.

The Swedish library act is from the year 1997 and there it is pronounced that every municipality must have a public library. Altogether there are 1200 libraries and 112 book mobiles. The libraries are run by the municipalities. (Mäntykangas & Torstensson, year unknown). Torstensson (1993) has written that "in Sweden the public libraries are seen as the most important cultural institution in a great majority of our municipalities".

5. ANALISYS

5.1 MISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN SWEDEN AND SPAIN.

The main objectives are to facilitate the public library and information resources services through various means in order to meet the needs of individuals and groups in terms of education, information and personal development including intellectual activities of leisure and recreational facilities. Play an important role in achievement and maintenance of a democratic society to provide everyone access to a range of knowledge, ideas and opinions. On the other hand the missions of the public libraries are [UNESCO, 2001]:

- Creating and strengthening reading habits in children at an early age;
- Supporting both individual and self conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;
- Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
- Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
- Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
- Ensuring access for citizens to all shorts of community information;
- Providing adequate information services to local enterproses, associations and interest groups;
- Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
- Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes for all age groups, and initiating Duch activities if necessary.

The objectives of the cultural policy by Parliament in Sweden (1997) are as they follow:

1. To help to Project freedom of speech to create the real condition necessary for this freedom to be used.
2. To offer people opportunities for creative activity of their own and to promote contacts between people.

3. To combat the negative effects of communication in the cultural sector.
4. To promote a decentralization of activities and decision-making functions in the cultural sector.
5. To be designed with regard to the experiences and needs of disadvantaged groups.
6. To make possible and artistic and cultural renewal.
7. To guarantee that the cultural heritage of earlier ages is preserved and kept alive.
8. To promote an exchange of experiences and ideas in the cultural sector across national borders.

Those were the general objectives of the cultural policy, but in the way of concerning to the libraries, the plans should be done it by the Municipal Council and they should be based on UNESCO's Public Library Manifesto and School Library Manifesto. By the plan they mean:

- Management document which is guaranteed political support.
- Library needs and measures for the fulfilment of these needs.
- Library needs concerning:
 - Education
 - Nursing
 - Health Care
 - Industry
 - Commerce

According to the law library section 7 should municipalities and counties after January 1, 2005 plans for the library community. A biblioteksplan is a tool for structured and in collaboration take advantage of the library resources available, create preparedness for future requirements and to stimulate development. But the limits of the law are broad and many municipalities are without biblioteksplan.

American Library Association defines a plan as follows:

"With a library plan for political rooted governing documents include an analysis of

the overall library needs of a municipality and measures how these needs.

Biblioteksplan This is in addition to public libraries also include libraries need in terms of education, care, health and business" (American Library Association)

By the Swedish Library Law from 1996, every municipality in Sweden os obliged to adopt a plan for the functioning of its local libraries. Activities and Results are to be described. Objectives are to be set.

This is the situation about the plans in Sweden (Data refer to the situation in October 2007):

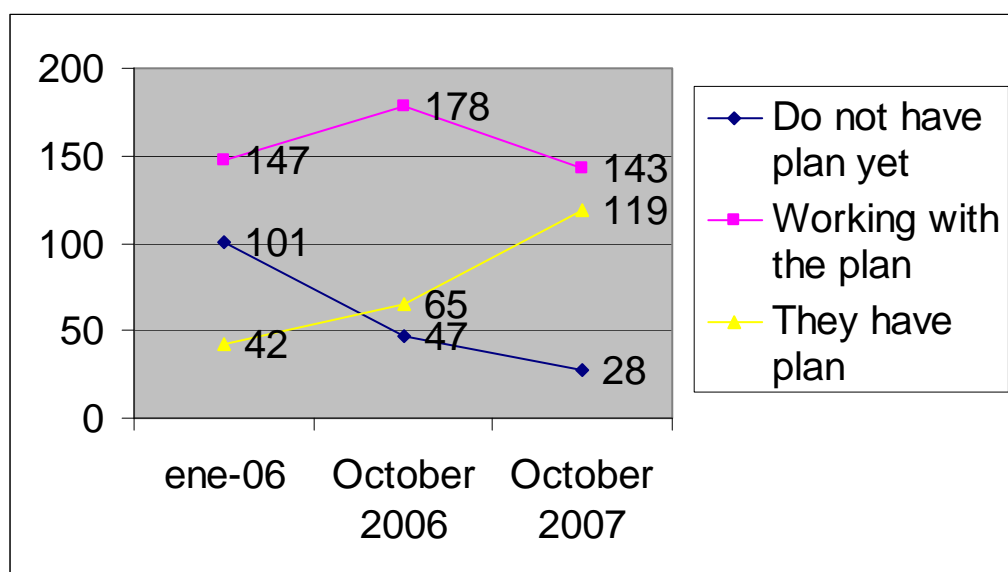


Fig.1 Library plan graphic.

- The municipalities have not begun yet and they have a plan adopted before 2002.
- The municipalities which states that are still working on the library plan.
- The municipalities say they have an accepted and current library plan.

With the graphic we can see that the great majority of libraries have adopted a plan in a short period of time, increasing the number of libraries which have accepted their plans.

5.2 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The governance structure in the Swedish system is quite similar to the Spanish one, because is the ministry of culture who is in charge of library affairs.

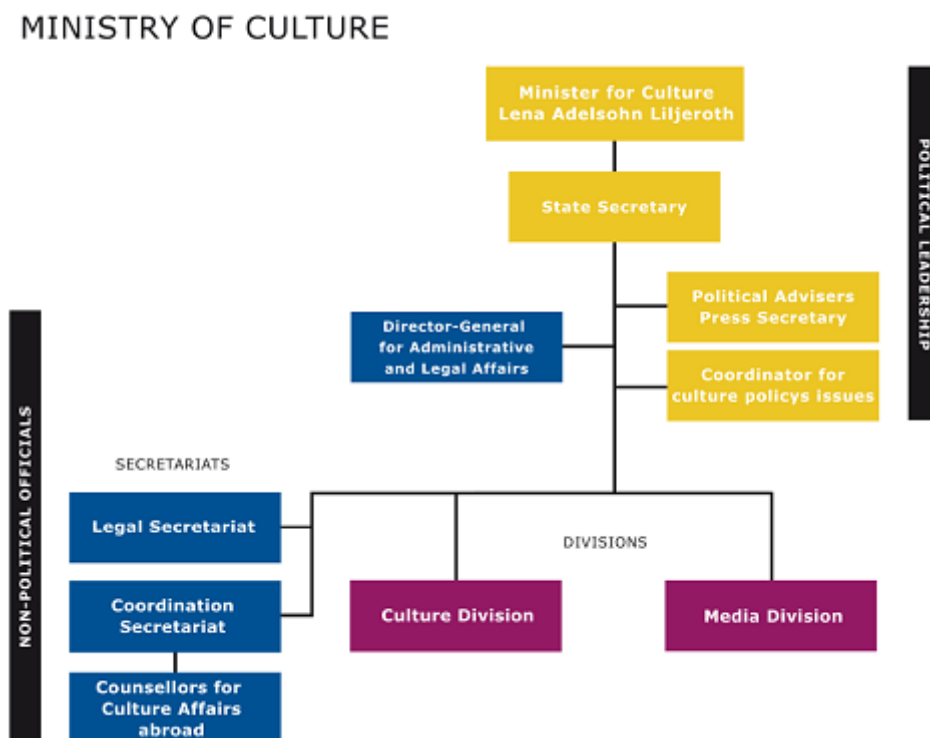


Fig 2. Swedish Ministry of Culture

Democratic values are very important in Sweden, because they directly affect the organizational structures. In Sweden, like Spain, there are hierarchical organizational structures where the communication and workflow goes from the upper layers to lower ones and vice versa, but the difference is the way of making the decisions, because the teamwork and joint decision-making are among the top in Sweden, the head of the organizational structure is not the only who makes the decisions. This affects the time, that decision making is faster in Sweden than in Spain. The failure of communication is mostly in the departments which are in the same level.

Perhaps the democratic way of working is more effective, because the communication in an organization is essential for a successful workflow and thus achieves the desired objectives.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE IN SPAIN – LIBRARY SECTION



Fig. 3 Ministerio de Cultura.

Spanish Library System is composed of:

- The National Library, which is the head of the system.
- The Public Libraries of the State.
- The dependent libraries of the ministries and autonomous agencies of State Administration, excluding schools.
- The Public Libraries of the Universities.
- Libraries of the Royal Academies.
- The library networks or systems of public institutions or private libraries of unique interest to be incorporated by composition with the Ministry of Culture.

The current library system is conditional for the birth of the autonomous communities as political power, which together with local government and state will share the responsibilities in public libraries. We can also distinguish similarities in two areas or

levels: the state management and autonomous/local management. As a regards the municipal governments, the La Ley de Regimen Local of 1985, recognizes the obligations to provide library services in municipalities of over 5.000 people.

5.3 RESOURCES

One of the things that stand out by the Swedish and Nordic library system is the amount of resources they offer to their users, because the main policy of the Swedish library system is able to offer their services and facilitate access to knowledge to all possible types of users. Some facts:

- 94% of the municipalities have a library service for old people’s home.
- 71% of the libraries bring books to people who can not go to the library.
- 79% of the municipalities have a library service at hospital.
- 56% of the municipalities have a library at factories and other palces to work.

Nowadays the public libraries in Sweden have 290 local districts, they have a system of public libraries administrated and financed by their local authotities. They have a total of 1.804 points of services (2006), in Spain there are 4.873 points of service (2006). They are distributed in this way:

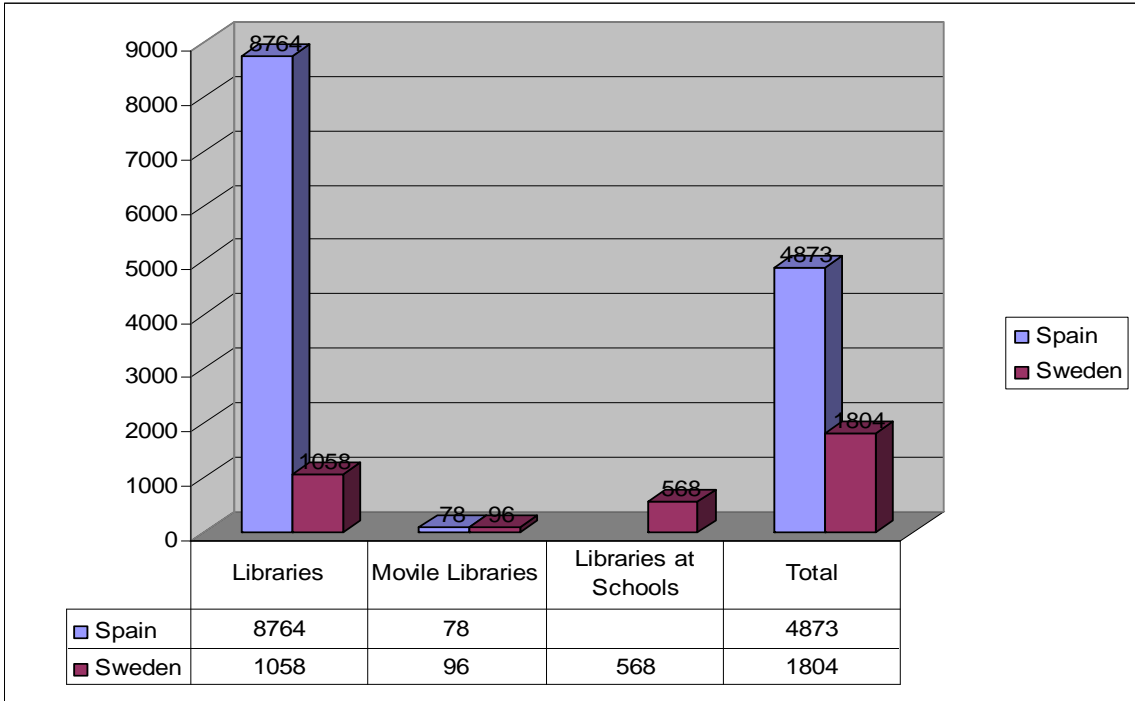


Fig.4 Types of library services.

There are much more libraries in Spain than in Sweden and this is the reason that the collection is bigger in Spain in order to cover que quantity of inhabitants, despite of this, we can see on the graphic that the difference is only 18.170.948 materials if we consider the number of inhabitants. The collection materials are more envolved with the users needs in Sweden, we can find in the libraries a lot of kinds of materials as we followong will see.

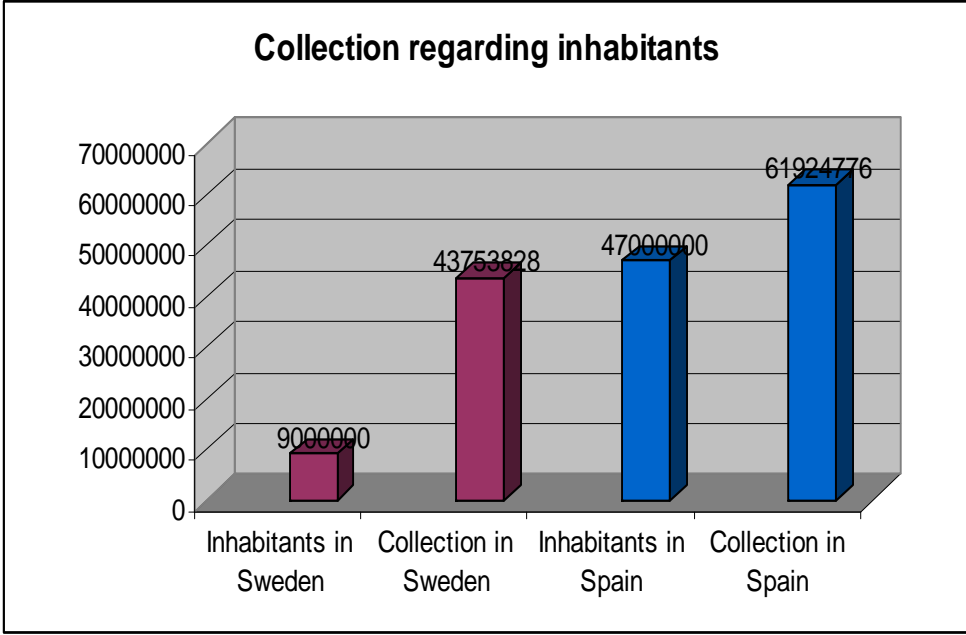


Fig.5 Volume Collection graphic.

As regards human resources, in the following chart we can see the figures in relation to the staff working in public libraries. We can see that there are about 6 times more librarians in Sweden that in Spain:

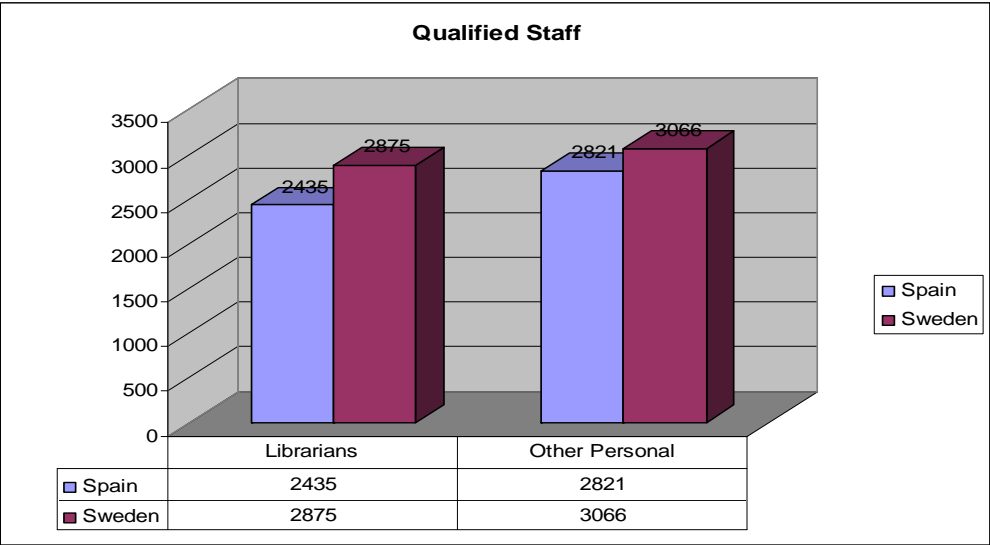


Fig. 6 Staff graphic.

Although there are a greater number of human resources in Spain, reaching 600,000 people working or providing services to public libraries, the number of professional librarians is greater in Sweden. The categories are as follows:

SPAIN	SWEDEN
Profesional Librarian	Profesion Librarians
Assistant Staff	Other Personal
Spacialized Staff	
Other Personal	
Scholar Staff	
Volunteers	

Fig 7. INE & Statistiska Centralbyrån

Regarding the Electronic sources and Internet, the presence of the in the Spanish public libraries is increasing year after year, thanks to the initiative of the Ministry of Culture, with creation of a network where you can find the public libraries web sites, although most of them do not offer electronic resources for their users.

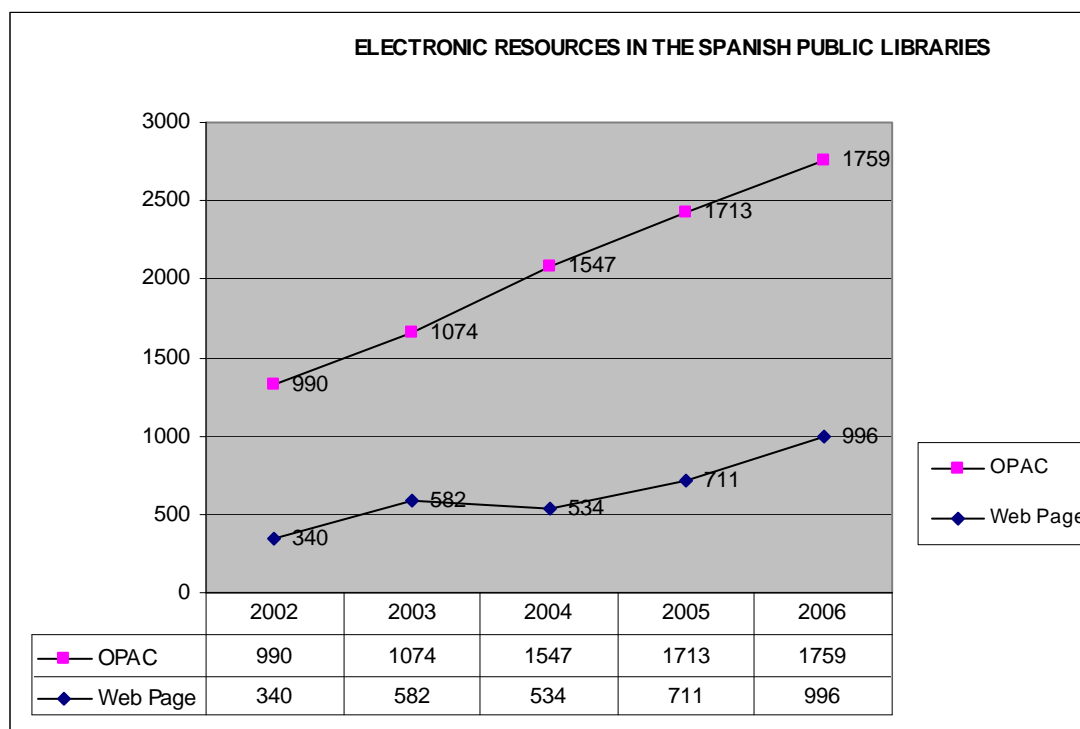


Fig.8 Electronic Resources.

Interlibrary Cooperation

There interlibrary cooperation as regards the loan of specimens from the public library and the university library, although it is more common that the public library make requests to the university, the university public.

The catalog level and in all the cooperating libraries either public or university is the LIBRIS. LIBRIS is based on the Voyager system, which leads the company Ex Libris, which also has another system called ALEPH.

The screenshot shows the LIBRIS website interface. At the top, the LIBRIS logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'LIBRIS SEARCH FACILITIES', 'HELP', 'PÅ SVENSKA', 'PREFERENCES', and 'CLEAR HISTORY' are on the right. Below this is a green navigation bar with tabs for 'Start', 'Extended search', 'Index A-Ö', 'Boolean', 'Subdatabases', and 'Search history'. A search input field with a 'Search' button is positioned below the tabs. The main content area features three promotional boxes: 'Explore' (finding books, theses, journals, music, e-books), 'Customize' (personalizing the library experience), and 'What is LIBRIS?' (describing the service). Below these is a section for 'Sondera - new search service' with a small image of the service interface and a description of its capabilities. A horizontal menu below this section includes 'New map feature', 'Lotta Lotass', 'Sondera - new search service', and 'New Swedish books'. At the bottom, there is a table with five columns: 'About LIBRIS', 'Help', 'On your site', 'Customize', and 'Search facilities', each containing a list of links. The footer includes the copyright notice: 'Copyright © LIBRIS - National Library Systems'.

About LIBRIS	Help	On your site	Customize	Search facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Give us feedbackPrivacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ContactAsk the LibraryTechnical information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Search boxesPlug-insBookmarklet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Text sizeContrastViews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">bibliotek.se (in Swedish)Uppsök (in Swedish)Samsök (in Swedish)

Fig 9. Libris Nacional Catalog

LIBRIS is a national search service providing information on titles held by Swedish university and research libraries, as well as about twenty public libraries. Here you can find books, periodicals, articles, maps, posters, printed music, electronic resources, etc.

LIBRIS WebSearch, the public version of the Swedish union catalogue has been freely available on the web since 1997. WebSearch is one of the leading search

engines for bibliographic information in Sweden and it offers free searching of more than 5.6 million publications mainly available in Swedish research libraries.

It contains records on more than six million books and periodicals held by around 170 Swedish research and special libraries.

The number of LIBRIS libraries using LIBRIS ILL has increased substantially since the late 1980s. Today more than 1,600 library units send ILL requests via LIBRIS; these include research and special libraries, public libraries, and libraries at public authorities, companies, hospitals, and museums. More than 350 of these libraries are situated in four other countries:

1. Denmark (132);
2. Finland (66);
3. Iceland (one); and
4. Norway (142).

Moreover, we have libraries in Estonia, France, Greece and the Czech Republic interested in using the system.

There are almost 400 Swedish library units that are lending libraries in LIBRIS. These comprise research libraries, interlibrary lending centres and county libraries. In 2006 more than 354,000 ILL requests were sent via LIBRIS ILL.

The LIBRIS Department of the National Library of Sweden is responsible for the operation and development of this online search service.

The National Union Catalogue

LIBRIS is the joint catalogue of the Swedish academic and research libraries and is updated on a daily basis. The libraries providing cataloguing input all contribute jointly to building up the database contents. At present the LIBRIS database contains almost 6 million titles.

SPANISH CATALOG

It allows the access to the collections of 52 State Public Libraries (BPE) and 15 networks of public libraries in the regions (Andalusia, Aragon, Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y Leon, Madrid, Valencia, Extremadura, Galicia, La Rioja, Navarra, Basque Country (2), Asturias and Murcia).

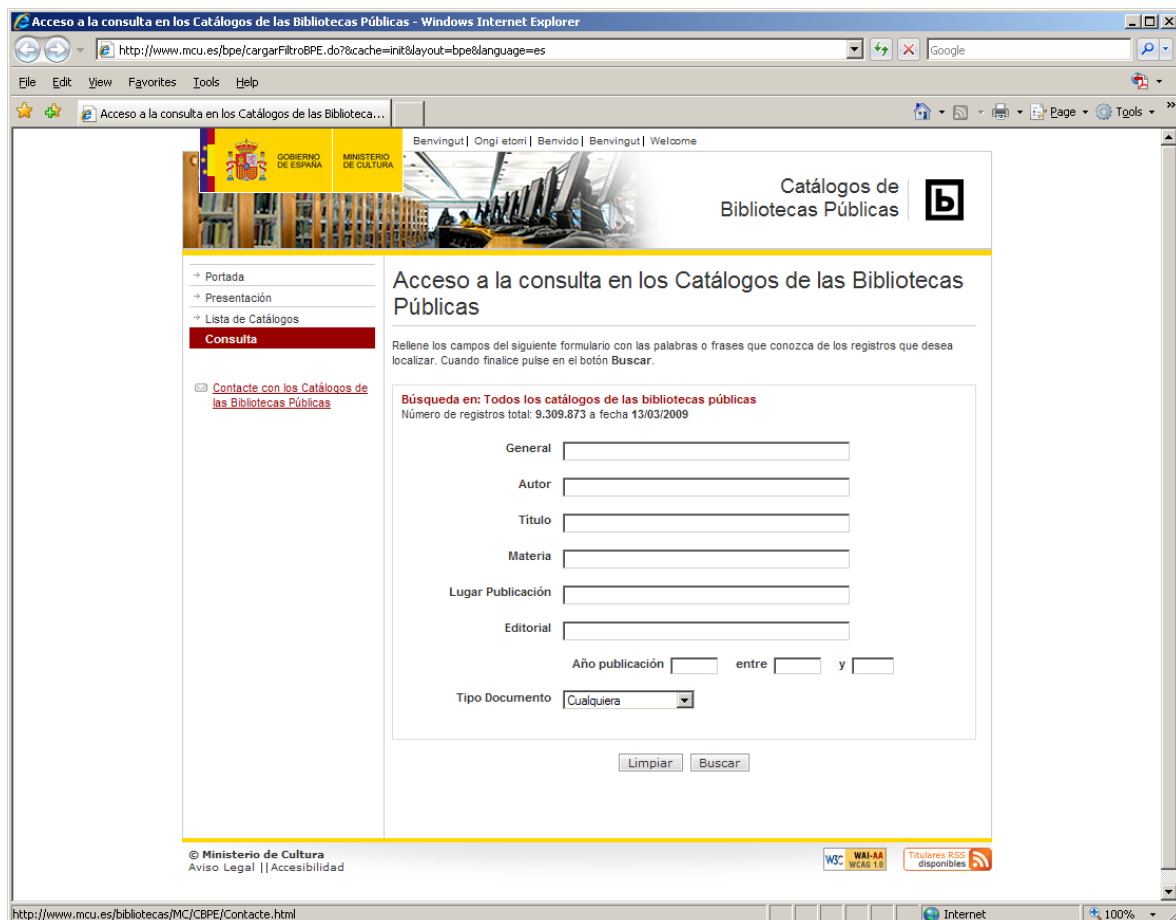


Fig 10. Spanish library Catalog

The service was launched in May 1996 at the initiative of Directorate General for Books, Archives and Libraries, through the General Coordination Branch Librarian.

5.4 USERS GROUP

In Sweden there is a long tradition of public libraries. The seventies was a time for expansion of the welfare society and library activities for disadvantaged groups were firmly established. At that time the multi-lingual library services started and are now part of the regular services guaranteed by the Swedish Library Law from 1997.

In this section I have considered to remark two users groups: Immigrants and disabled. The reason for that is to explain how Sweden has taken in consideration these "special" users and put resources for them as a part of the society.

In Sweden today, more than one of ten inhabitants have foreign background. They are partly concentrated in the main cities Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö, where in some suburban areas half the population is of foreign origin. In medium size industrial cities, such as Eskilstuna, Borås and Västerås about one of five are of foreign origin, but refugees from conflict areas all over the world have today made their home in many places throughout Sweden. We know that the immigrants use to concentrating together in some areas of the city, and that library of that are must play an important role as a lifeline for the immigrants. In Borås we have an example of a public library that has this practical implication, to help immigrants overcome their difficulties of adaptation period in the new country; this is the Hässlehus Library, in the Hässleholm district.

The facilities most asked for are newspapers and magazines, today extended by access to news on the internet. This makes the library an everyday room for many people who from there on will discover that the library is there for you when you need it. Media in other languages can be of very different content, according to the length of time that each language group has lived in the community, the age structure of the group and its interests.

Now in Spain we have the same question that we have to ask in Spanish libraries, about this entire emigration problem and if there is properly special collection and materials for this minority group that is increasing. The immigrant population in Spain

is the 2.476.334 people (at least registered); they are mainly in Valencia, Catalunya, Madrid, Malaga and Balear Islands. [Immigration Ministry of Spain, June 2011].

Public libraries in Spain need to go out of the professional circle and convert the libraries in real sociocultural spaces. They must promote even more activities such as language learning, distance learning and information technologies learning. There have been some projects promoted by universities and local governments where the main objective is to create multicultural information services for immigrants. One of them was **University Complutense's Project**. A research to determine the information needs of immigrants living in Madrid and a proposal to create library services to facilitate sociocultural integration.

Regarding to the disable people, the most remarkable thing to mention is the special collection that we can find in every single public library, materials such as audio books for blind people, books with big printed letter... Integrating those special materials in public libraries, it does not need to make or feel anyone special; moreover we do not need special libraries for them.

The premises should clearly indicate that people of all ages, from all walks of life, of all languages and religions are welcome. The visitor should feel that the library is a place for both knowledge and fantasy, for leisure and inspiration, free of charge, free of demand, free from commercial advertisements, an island of well-being.

6. LEGISLATION IN SWEDEN

The libraries in Sweden are surrounded by the Swedish laws that affects directly to them. We will go further with the following ones which three of them I would like to emphasize that are focused on disabled people [Beckman, I]:

- Copyright law.
- Swedish library system and act.
- The Local Community Act.
- Anti-discrimination laws.

COPYRIGHT LAW

- The first law for producing a copy without permission from the copyright-owner was set in 1960.
- Everyone has the right to produce books and music in Braille.
- The libraries or organisations that are told by the government may record literary and musical works for blind and for persons with visual or mobile impairment.
- You may make a private copy of the audio books.
- A title produced by the commercial market can not be produced as an audio Book.
- Agreement with Author's union.
- 1977 an agreement with the Author's union that the exception in the copy right law in the benefit for blind and visually impaired also could cover all people with print disabilities.

- New law following the EU directives from July.1 2005.
- Those libraries and organisations, which are told by the government, may produce copies from all types of material, (literature, music, art, film etc) in an accessible format (audio, ebook, sign language, braille etc.).

SWEDISH LIBRARY SYSTEM AND ACT (1996:1596)

Before start speaking about the system and mostly about the library act, I would like to mention again their cultural vision and intention on word of the Swedish Libray Association.

“Everybody is living in freedom, democracy and tolerance, and has the same value, rights and possibilities.

Everybody has freedom of thought and speech, free and unlimited access to knowledge and information, and access to education, lifelong learning, and personal and cultural development.

Everybody has, during all the phases of his or her life, equally good access to a library service of high quality which is covered by a national library act suited to its purpose and by a well-developed national library policy.” The Swedish Library Association.

Compared with the Spanish library law that contains different levels of legislation, national and by provinces, the Swedish libraries are under the same national Libraries Act (1996:1596), the surprise is to know how brief the extension of it is, although we will notice soon that is very general. The Act sets out national goals and guidelines in the area of libraries. All citizens shall have access to a public library. There are to be public libraries, where the public can borrow literature free of charge, in every municipality.

The task of the public libraries is to promote interest in reading and literature, information, enlightenment and education as well as cultural activities.

The bill also specifies that the public libraries shall work to make computer-based information available to all citizens. One of the sections concerns children's and young people's access to books and other media. Young people as well as disabled persons and immigrants are to be given access to information technology and media adapted to their needs.

The points of the law are the following:

Section 1:

This Act contains regulations about library services provided through public agencies.

Section 2:

In order to promote interest in reading and literature, information, enlightenment and education and also cultural activities generally, every citizen should have access to a public library. The public libraries shall work to ensure that data-based information is made available to all citizens. Every municipality shall have a public library.

Section 3:

The public shall be able to borrow literature for a specified period from the public libraries free of charge. This provision does not prevent charges being made for expenses of photocopying, postage and other similar services. Neither does it prevent a charge being made in the event of a borrower not returning that which he or she has borrowed within the agreed time.

Section 4:

There should be a county library in every county. The county library shall support the public libraries in the county with supplementary provision of media and other regional library functions. There shall also be one or more lending centres for the provision of supplementary media.

Section 5:

Within the nine-year compulsory school and upper secondary school there should

be suitably distributed school libraries in order to stimulate the interest of pupils in reading and literature and also to satisfy their needs for material in the education.

Section 6:

There should be access to university libraries at all universities and university colleges. These libraries shall, within the fields connected with the education and research at the university or university college, be responsible for library services within the university and university college and, in collaboration with the library service in Sweden, generally provide library services.

Section 7:

The municipalities are responsible for the public and school library operations. The county councils are responsible for the county libraries and for the libraries at universities and university colleges whose principal is the county and municipal county councils. The state is responsible for other university libraries and university college libraries and for the lending centres and also for such library operations which the state is responsible for according to separate provisions.

Section 8:

The public and school libraries shall afford particular attention to people with disabilities and to immigrants and other minorities by, among other things, offering literature in other languages than Swedish and in forms particularly adapted to the needs of these groups.

Section 9:

Public and school libraries shall afford special attention to children and young persons by offering books, information technology and other media adapted to their needs in order to promote language development and stimulate reading.

Section 10:

County libraries, lending centres, university libraries and university college libraries, research libraries and other libraries funded by the state shall provide literature from their own collections free of charge at the disposal of the public

libraries and otherwise co-operate with the public and school libraries and support them in their efforts to offer borrowers good library services.

There have been minimum changes since 1996; the most recent we have to go back until last year and was it regarding the school libraries, unfortunately, I could not figure out which change was it.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ACT

The obligation of equal treatment of its citizens in the law is an important tool to make that the opportunities are equal for every single user.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

- Law requiring Equal Treatment of Students within universities
- Law against discrimination of students with disabilities within universities

7. BORÅS PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a part of my project, I would like to introduce the Borås library, as good example of public Swedish library. Everything is based on the experience that I have collected from the different visits in my Practical Experience Subject Programme in 2009.

The library is placed in the Arts Centre (Kulturhuset) in Borås. This building was opened in December 1975. The idea was first proposed in the 1950s, but it was not until 1970 that funds were available and a decision to build the centre was made. The building was designed by Roland Gandvik who was the Borås city architect at the time. The area inside of the building comprise some 180 000 square feet of space which house the library, theatre, museum and also café. [The Arts Centre, 2009]

The municipality's cultural activities have the objective that all residents have the possibility to have the information, skills and experiences that are necessary both in order to take an active part in the democratic process and develop as a person.

To understand the philosophy of the public libraries in Sweden and the services that they offer to the community, it is necessary to mention the goals, in this case the City Library of Borås:

- Strive to reach people.
- Ensure quality, diversity, opinion and information.
- Combat xenophobia and racism.
- Be available to all and have generous opening hours.
- Actively cooperate with other institutions, kindergartens, schools, organizations and associations, and where possible and appropriate to do it.

Considering these statements is not surprising that the library containing all kinds of materials: 38 languages, 230 000 titles, 627 journals, 81 newspapers, etc. The most striking to me, comparing with the public libraries in Spain, is the special consideration for users with physical disabilities, books with big print letter or audio

books. In Spain, you can find this kind of materials in specific institutions or special libraries; they do not converge together like in public libraries in Sweden.

The library is accessible 24 hours a day on homepage. The library offer access to other networks and databases. Users can check loans, make renewals and reservation, they also have the possibility to download e-books and e-music to computer. Talking about the resources on the library site, I would like to mention and remark The Press Display Service. Library PressDisplay provides instant online access to today's newspapers from around the world in full-color, full-page format, so if we think about the immigrant population in Borås, and the possibility to make them access to the information, I consider that is a quality and useful tool in order to be connected with the news and the daily events in their countries.

8. IMMIGRANT INSTITUTET

Since we have gone through the minority groups in the libraries (such as immigrants) and as a part of my experience as a “praktikant” thanks to the practical scholarship in this institution during 9 months in 2010, I would like to mention the library of the Immigrant Institute. This specialized library has the largest collection of literature concerning migration in all aspects, but mainly about Sweden as an immigration country. Presently there are about 10.000 documents in the library’s collection. 4.000 of these are reports and essays from universities and authorities. The bibliographic collection of the Immigrant-Institutet is catalogued and introduced in the Swedish library catalog Libris.

The archives main purpose is to collect and preserve documents produced by immigrants and immigration associations. The Immigrant Institute deals with immigration and refugees issues. Its main purpose is to function as an information and documentation centre within this area. Since the start in 1973 a library and an archive has been created to preserve documents for future.

Appart of being a resource center, the most important goal that the institute has achieved is being a social and cultural center, when in the golden days, was a reference for the immigrants in Sweden.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

In these conclusions I want to remark the importance of having different kinds of material and services beyond borrowing, renewing and reserving, that libraries must have for their users, and the importance of the democracy in the society.

There are much more libraries in Spain than in Sweden and this is the reason that the collection is bigger in Spain in order to cover the quantity of inhabitants, despite of this, the difference is not so bigger if we consider the number of inhabitants. There is a great lack of coordination among the different administrations (local, provincial, autonomous, state). Even within the same Autonomous Community, when two or more library networks exist side by side, subordinate to different administrations, there is no coordination between them. Each administration does its own planning and it is not uncommon to find small towns endowed with two or three public libraries all with different administrations and a short distance away, other, sometimes larger towns which have no library service at all [d'Alos-Moner/Onate, 1993]. It is possible to have an efficient professional library service also in municipalities with only a few thousand inhabitants, if their libraries are a part of a system with county libraries and one or more interurban lending centres. [Torstensson, Magnus, 1993] It can be possible to have effective services in municipality with not so many inhabitants, because in Spain in 2006 there were still 45.196.841 people from these municipalities without any library service [INE, 2006].

Regarding the collection materials are more involved with the users needs in Sweden than in Spain as well as the services that they offer. In Sweden today the inhabitants have foreign background. They are partly concentrated in the main cities Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö, where in some suburban areas half the population is of foreign origin. In medium size industrial cities, such as Borås and Västerås about one of five are of foreign origin, but refugees from conflict areas all over the world have today made their home in many places. Now in Spain we have

the same question that we have to ask in Spanish libraries, about this entire emigration problem and if there is properly special collection and materials, for this minority group that is increasing. The conclusion that I reached comparing libraries in Sweden and libraries in Spain regarding this matter, is that is necessary the adaptation to the needs and demands of the immigrant population to promote the intercultural and the encounter between different cultures, the immigrant population in Spain is quite important and they are becoming potential users to the libraries. Another big problem that I see sometimes in Spain is the wrong circulation of the materials, with this I mean that I do not think is necessary borrow media material (CD, DVD...) for one month, that is extremely long time if there are limits in the resources and moreover if the demand is big, would it be acceptable for another materials such a books. In connection to this I would like to mention as well the different views with the fines that could make fluent the fact of returning the materials borrowed on time and not case problems to the people who has reserved afterwards. In Sweden you have to pay 10kr (about 1 euro) for each day that you are late returning the material; in Spain is about take borrowing days out of your library card. Which would be more effective?

Other conclusion is that the new librarian must become a link and place of cultural exchange in order to promote the multiculturalism in the society. Public libraries in Spain need to go out of the professional circle and convert the libraries in real socio-cultural spaces. They must promote activities such as language learning, distance learning and information technologies learning. The staff at the libraries has an important role in our societies because this ensures that libraries will be part for the development of democracy. As a final thing that I would like to mention and finish this report is that the visitor should feel that the library is a place for both knowledge and fantasy, for leisure and inspiration, free of charge and free of demand. That was the feeling that I got from the Public Library of Borås, where the premises are clearly indicated that people of all ages, from all walks of life, of all languages and disabilities are welcomed to the library and they can make use of the collection and special cultural services.

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