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Open Access and Access to Public Libraries

Overview

• The broader picture: key influences on society
• The public library is relevant to people
• Implications of key societal changes for public libraries
• Europe need to realise the potentials of its public libraries
• Conclusions
The broader picture: key influences on soc
Some dynamic change processes

- Change in values
- Demographic changes
- Economic change towards internationalisation
- Cultural change towards globalisation
- Change to service economy
- Ecological change
- New media, new communication technologies
New media and new communication technologies
New media and new communication technologies

• media and information literacy
• growing amounts of information
• social collaborative tools
• mobile devices
New media and new communication technologies

the “new book” is the
digital multimedia
content from the cloud,
accessible from any web
enabled device

New media and communication technologies - 2

• experiences with search engines form search expectations

• Information must be:
  • Portable
  • Participatory
  • Personalized
Targets for digital inclusion, by 2015:

- Regular internet use should increase by 2015 from 60% to 75% and from 41% to 60% for disadvantaged people.
- The proportion of population that has never used the internet should be halved by 2015 to 15%.
  (Baseline in 2009, 30% of individuals aged 16-74 had never used the internet)
By 2020, Europeans are …

• digitally connected
• e-skilled
• digital literate
• practices life-long learning
The public library is relevant to people

Photographer: Gunilla Heiman
The public library is relevant to people

- Core mission: give people access to knowledge
- Public libraries guarantee quality
- Public libraries provide personalized advice in search strategies and selection
- Public libraries are neutral places
- Public libraries are reliable and trusted places
The public library is relevant to people 2

- Public libraries have many years of experience in the promotion of reading
- Public libraries are meeting places
Implications of key societal changes for public libraries
Implications of key societal changes for public libraries

- Train librarians
- Provide free access to all digital information
- Enrich library catalogues
- Create new spaces for the digital age
- Cooperate with aggregators
- Market the library with its unique service propositions
Europe needs to realise the potentials of its public libraries
Europe needs to realise the potentials of its public libraries

Open Access is not only an alternative concept of organising the distribution of scientific information. Underlying is a new value system that aims at making knowledge sustainable by ensuring free and open access and unrestricted use for everyone.
Europe needs to realise the potentials of its public libraries 2

- The EU Copyright Directive of 2001 failed to recognize the importance of harmonized exemptions and limitations
- current copyright law gives close to total legal protection to digital rights management
- Licences often have the effect of restricting access by ignoring copyright exemptions
Europe needs to realise the potentials of its public libraries 3

- If private contract law for digital information services continues to override legal exemptions, then legal exemptions are useless
- Digital lending in public libraries is currently - if at all - only possible in close analogy to physical lending
Europe needs to realise the potentials of its public libraries 4

- Legal digital lending of attractive content via a public library is the best prevention of illegal downloads via exchange platforms
- Currently, it is in fact the publisher who decides what is available in libraries and what not
- EU Directive on Lending Rights requires a revision to include also digital lending
Europe needs to realise the potentials of its public libraries

- EU framework for new European strategies and concerted actions
- abolish all barriers built into copyright legislation that contradict the idea of enabling access for all
- European platform to assist the development of models for digital lending in public libraries
- Member States: invest in public libraries and support a national network of public libraries
Conclusions:
Conclusions: Libraries...

- are public places for knowledge, for the diversity of opinions and thoughts
- have a role to play in the connection of global and local
- provide access to quality-checked information and knowledge
Thank you!

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