

# My Impressions of the 7th NVBF ILL Conference



Af Liv Mostad-Jensen

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To be an ILL librarian or not to be – that is the question  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune  
(or in the face of library budget cuts, not so outrageous fortune)  
Or to take arms against a sea of copyright infringement lawsuits  
And by opposing them end them? –To die, -to sleep, -  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heartache and the thousand natural shocks  
Of a thousand lost books, - 'tis a consternation  
Devoutly to be miss'd. To die, -to sleep;-  
To sleep! perchance to dream of Open Access; - ay, there's the rub;

– The original Hamlet referenced to create this was accessed free and full-text online through Project Gutenberg

I had the great privilege of attending the 7th NVBF ILL Conference held in Helsingør October 1-3. It was an exciting and interesting three days at the picturesque seaside Marienlyst Hotel. I found the conference especially informative, because I came in with so little knowledge of the Nordic ILL landscape.

One presentation that particularly caught my attention was “bibliotek.dk in Google”, by Kirsten Larsen. The presentation discussed how the records of bibliotek.dk, the OPAC of the Danish Union Catalog, were made accessible through Google. I just thought it was interesting that a way was found to work with Google, which is sometimes seen as a threat to our profession, to improve the visibility of the library in the online environment. I thought this was similar to the idea of the “Get-it” button, as mentioned by both Janifer Gatenby in her presentation “Resource Delivery Focus OCLC PICA” and Anne Beaubien in her presentation “Rethinking Resource Sharing.” Here, the idea

was to put a “Get-it” button connected to the library on pages where patrons are looking up books, movies or other materials a library might have, such as Amazon.com. Again, it is the idea of bringing the library to where the users are and working in the way that they work.

Another theme that ran through many of the presentations was that of copyright issues. I found this very interesting, particularly in light of the barriers it can throw up to inter-library lending, especially between nations. There were several presentations about exciting endeavors in providing materials electronically directly to the end user. However, at the end of the presentation someone would inevitably ask if the service was available to users in other countries to which the answer would be “no” or “not yet”, due to copyright restrictions.

Several presenters discussed increased automation of ILL processes and the movement towards unmediated, end user requesting. This

is not surprising considering the argument Poul Erlandsen made in his presentation “Øresund Borrow Direct: User Initiated Borrowing within the Øresund University Consortium,” based on Mary E. Jackson’s findings in *Assessing ILL/DD Services: New Cost Effective Alternatives*. In this book she shows that unmediated requests are cheaper, faster and have higher fill rates than mediated requests.

This conference was a great learning experience and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to take part in it.

Liv Mostad-Jensen is pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science at Danmarks Biblioteksskole. She previously worked in the Document Delivery section of the MINITEX Library Information Network, based at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus. She participated in the conference thanks to a special grant offered to library students.