

DEF Theme

**Denmark's Electronic
Research Library**



Content

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3 Preface

4 An interview with Kim Østrup, chairman of the DEF Steering Committee

8 DEF - in brief

11 User service in DEF

11 The DEF Catalogue project

12 Licences and law

14 DEF licenses

17 Retro-conversion under DEF

18 DEF grants towards library IT-systems

19 Brief status on international relations and activities

Preface

The DEF project is an open project of the kind that has never before been carried out in the Danish library world. It will affect the priorities of every single participating library, it will change the service profile, it will create a new co-operation between the institutions, and it may affect the publishing structure as well as the registration and marketing of research results.

But first and foremost, of course, it will mean round-the-clock access to important research information from any connected computer.

What makes the Danish project an extraordinary project, differing from other existing digital library projects – Nordic and international – is the following:

- Strong political and governmental attention
- Widespread co-operation between libraries
- Central focus on the end user.

From different angles the articles in this publication highlight a variety of themes being pursued within the present activities of the DEF project. These articles have been published in *Nyt fra Nyhavn* nr. 1 2001.

Bo Öhrström

Danmarks Elektroniske Forskningsbibliotek

An interview with Kim Østrup, chairman of the DEF Steering Committee



Deputy director Kim Østrup, IBM Danmark A/S, (chairman)

Anna C. Rasch

After barely six months as chairman of the DEF Steering Committee a vigorous Kim Østrup is still eager to continue the development of that part of the future Danish knowledge infrastructure which is anchored in Denmark's Electronic Research Library. The part which according to Kim Østrup, who is a deputy director with IBM, represents one of the modern knowledge society's "greatest and most exiting challenges".

Knowledge infrastructure

For Kim Østrup working with the members of the Steering Committee, the Danish National Library Authority and the other DEF players has been a stimulating experience and has made him reflect on the connection between the knowledge accumulation of the Danish library structure and the creation of our Danish welfare state.

- The central issue when talking about 'knowledge' is

whether in a small country we can ensure access to sufficient knowledge. It is probably a decisive competition parameter. This applies to educative knowledge, but most certainly also to new knowledge related to research, business, production etc., he maintains.

Kim Østrup regards the Internet as one of the most important media of our time for collecting and distributing knowledge and therefore as a central element in a competitive and effective knowledge infrastructure, if one wishes to maintain a high level of education and research. The development of a knowledge infrastructure is a pivotal point in this context and with Denmark's Electronic Research Library the path is open for a fruitful combination of the physical and the virtual library.

Very soon it will be possible for the individual DEF user to

gain access to the research libraries' resources directly from the PC at home or from a conference room abroad via an ordinary online connection to the Internet.

One of DEF's most challenging tasks is, with the construction of an extensive and well-functioning knowledge infrastructure, to create the best possible conditions for the Danish research environment and consequently for the Danish knowledge production through close integration of technology, users and research libraries. Using DEF should become an active part of the knowledge production process it-self and in this way fulfil an ever increasing need for a knowledge infrastructure and a research network which are not confined to the use of the physical library and the individual user's physical locality.

- Things must connect!, maintains the chairman, and offers the following example of the interplay between the physical and the virtual library – a picture which most of us are probably very familiar with: - When you walk into a university library, the electronic library is obviously part of the research and study environment, and I certainly also find it exhilarating to see the physical library where the students are deeply involved, sitting in front of computers, working in the reading rooms etc.

Digitisation and journal licences

Digitisation of the Danish cultural heritage is another DEF interest sphere which is close to Kim Østrup's heart. Being a small language area means that we must make a special effort to preserve our national cultural heritage and cultural infrastructure, observes Kim Østrup.

- It is important for us that we digitise parts and make them available. Exactly because we are small, he says. True, the cost of digitisation of library resources is the same in Denmark as it is in Germany, despite the fact that there are ten times as many people to do it there, but even so Kim Østrup feels that digitisation is an overall important area for DEF, being something which has to be done at national level.

As well as the need for digitisation of Danish research material, there exists a considerable need for access to foreign material, including for example access to electronic journals, which is another area high on Kim Østrup's list of prioritisation for DEF. Here DEF is facing the major task of successfully negotiating journal licences which will give access to the greatest number of users possible within a reasonable economic frame.

- For many of the journals we can give access to, the amount to pay depends on how many users there are, and that is a bit of a barrier, says Kim Østrup

In this connection it is therefore important that DEF is able to formulate a price policy which takes into consideration the different elements of the collective knowledge production process. Kim Østrup offers the following example:

- The knowledge we go out and purchase at exorbitant prices is something which public sectors all over the world have paid for researchers to develop and write down. This is subsequently turned into an article for a journal, which the public sector will then have to pay for once more.

Kim Østrup points out that a value is, of course, being created in the knowledge production process itself, but that with DEF we now have an opportunity for putting pressure on the link in the value chain which stops at the licence holders.

Towards democratic access

As a source of information the Internet makes it possible for the individual user to gain access to undreamed-of quantities of information in every shape and size. The process of selection and dissemination which transforms information into knowledge is thus an important factor in the absorption of knowledge itself. Whereas previously the library's dissemination of knowledge has been confined to the physical development space, DEF has now paved the way for a more 'democratic access to knowledge'.

A development which in Kim Østrup's opinion ought to extend far beyond the world of research in the future.

- It is absolutely crucial that you don't have to live next door to your library in order to get hold of 'knowledge'. The point is that it is possible to democratise knowledge so that it won't just be the monopoly of the researchers, he points out.

Here Kim Østrup imagines a democratisation of access which means that it doesn't matter where you live in Denmark, and he maintains:

- We live in a global village, so we are talking about a global access to information, and it is a national distribution. But global access has to be negotiated and we must have the edge in the handling of national distribution. So the main point is that when we have this knowledge infrastructure from cultural life to science, it is a competition parameter to have access to this knowledge.

Optimal research

In a country like Denmark, knowledge, knowledge dissemination and in fact our general knowledge infrastructure as a whole, is vital for the quality of our research. Kim Østrup offers the following comments:

- I believe you do better research when you have access to the highest quality of knowledge and you have access to the best databases etc.

Here he is thinking of the inter-dependency between research tradition and knowledge development, and also the development which takes place in the growth area between technology, research, knowledge production and people. With Internet as the basis for our research infrastructure, the seeds, according to Kim Østrup, have been sown for a completely new research tradition – a new way of doing research – where researchers and students connect in global networks. Networks which not only supplement physical interaction at conferences, meetings etc., but also offer cheap, quick, efficient and at times more informal communication.

- Networks are very important, I think. I believe it matters what you are capable of and who you know in a research network. The precondition for this is that you have access to information. That is the modern production factor, says Kim Østrup.

Focus on users

In Kim Østrup's opinion one of the things we can learn from the Internet is that we must address a much wider circle of users. It is therefore essential to pay more attention to what the users really want and who – apart from for example researchers and students – may benefit from DEF resources. - The methodology which is associated with focusing on the users and analysing what the users do and informing the users of what they are able to do, will to my mind play an increasingly important role, says Kim Østrup.

Until such time as it is possible to put up alternative success criteria, Kim Østrup wants to focus on some of the business sector's – as he describes them – quantitative "silly goals", like for example number of hits on the DEF portal. In the first instance the important thing is to get some sites with lots of 'hits', i.e. homepages with a large number of visitors. In this way the chairman wants to open the door for:

- A site which goes a bit beyond a – if you will forgive the expression – rather "dusty" library portal. We must consider what it is that stimulates people, he explains – with a wry smile.

Some people might call this a slightly populist view, suggests Kim Østrup, but it is in fact an important point if one is to understand what the needs truly are and what works.

Finally he describes the use of digital courseware as a tendency which from a user perspective could "dramatically change a lot of things in the future" and mentions as an example the e-book:

- The e-book will "arrive" in the education sector first. When we have got interactive e-books which begin to function in other ways, we shall be on the brink of being able to offer courses – and then there is a gigantic overlap with The Virtual University.

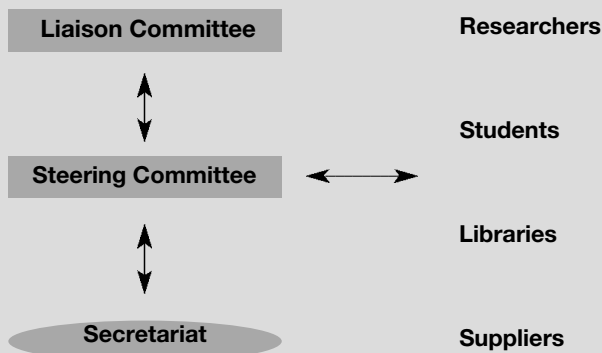
A connection, which according to Kim Østrup, can pave the way for co-operation on common security systems, access managing systems and unified user interfaces and which will develop further over time.

The last word...

If the development continues, the research library users will in future be able to choose between not only three or four, but an abundance of alternative knowledge resources. In this context, DEF's task is quite simply to help future researchers, students and anyone else who will benefit from the combination of the physical and the virtual library, to improve their skills in qualitative selection from the enormous choice of knowledge resources.

Kim Østrup ends by stressing how important it is to continue to develop the research libraries' and their employees' skills in communication and selecting information as an all important link in the 'soft' part of the collective knowledge infrastructure – and through this to contribute to a fruitful and competitive further development of Danish research.

DEF project organisation



The DEF Project

The DEF project is the result of a co-operative effort by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Research and Ministry of Education. The basis for the project is to be found in the government's IT-political action plan "The Information Society for all - the Danish model" from 1996. The initial preparations for the project took place in 1996-97, and when the national budget for 1998 was approved DEF became a reality with a budget of 200 mil. DKK, distributed over the period 1998-2002. The main objective with this grant is through DEF to strengthen the basis of the knowledge society's research library service to Danish researchers, students and companies. This can happen partly by making sure that Danish research libraries have the necessary IT systems available, thereby delivering an integrated electronic service, and partly by initiating relevant development and service projects to such an extent and of such quality that in practice the users can gain access to the DEF resources.

DEF Liaison Committee

Ministry of Culture:	Poul Bache, deputy permanent secretary (chairman) Niels-Jørgen Nielsen, head of division Anne Mette Risager, head of section
Ministry of Research:	Merete Reuss, head of division Jan Windmüller, head of section
Ministry of Education:	Mogens Berg, head of section Birthe Bjerrum, head of division Torben Kornbech Rasmussen, director

DEF Steering Committee

Deputy director Kim Østrup, IBM Danmark A/S, (chairman)
Deputy director Bo Öhrström, Danish National Library Authority (in charge of project)
Library advisory officer Hanne Marie Kværdrup, Danish National Library Authority (secretary to the Steering Committee)
Chief librarian Miriam Gelfer-Jørgensen, Library of Art and Design
Director Lone Gladbo, Gentofte Public Library
Director Erland Kolding Nielsen, The Royal Library
Professor Kai Kristensen, The Aarhus Business School
Director Morten Kyng, Centre for IT Research
Professor Sine Larsen, Institute of Chemistry, Copenhagen
Chief librarian Birgit Pedersen, Research Centre Risø
Director Annette Winkel Schwarz, Technical Knowledge Center & Library of Denmark
Chief librarian Niels Senius Clausen, Roskilde University Library
Project manager Jens Ove Skjærbæk, COWI Consulting Engineers
Director Jens Thorhauge, Danish National Library Authority

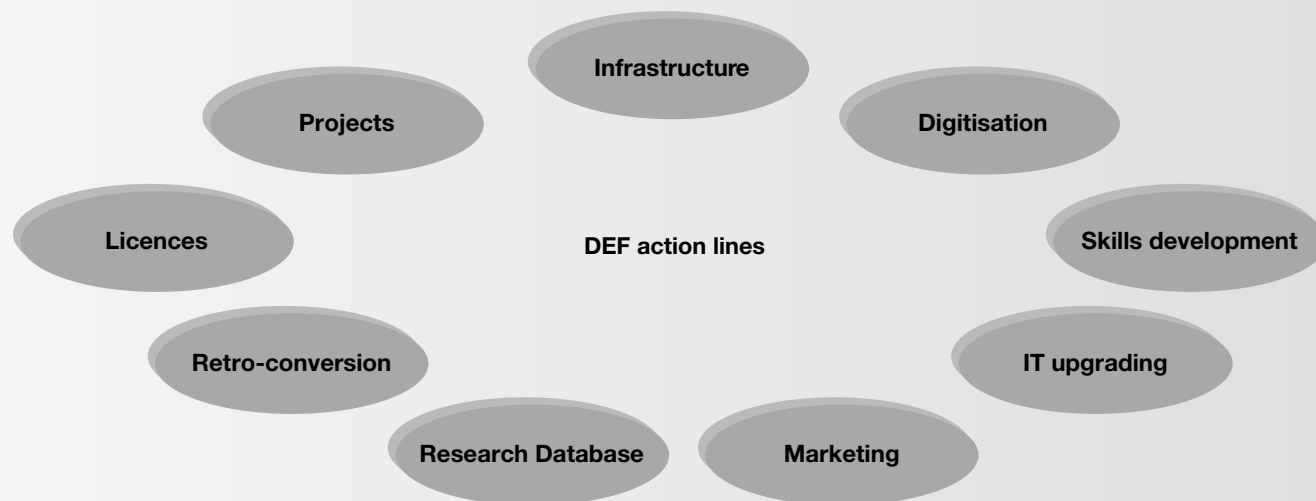
DEF Secretariat

Deputy director, Bo Öhrström
Library advisory officer Hanne Marie Kværdrup

DEF - in brief

Towards the future – excerpts from Action Plan 2001-2002 for Denmark's Electronic Research Library

Bo Öhrström



DEF in figures

- 29 libraries are involved in the DEF portal, including the twelve major libraries and 17 of the smaller and medium-sized libraries
- DEF directory at present gives access to 529 electronic net resources (catalogues and information databases)
- 5 subject gateways will in the spring give access to a large number of net resources
- 55 libraries have had their library systems upgraded via DEF in accordance with DEF's technical standards.
- DEF gives access to 25 DEF licences covering about 6000 journal titles in full text
- 14 development projects, i.a. dealing with user instruction, skills development, user investigations/satisfaction, digitisation, technology-supported teaching (e-learning) are in progress
- Retro-conversion of about 2,5 mil. catalogue cards at a total cost of approx. DKK 20 mil. comprising card catalogues from 14 research libraries, is being carried out.

The DEF vision

The DEF portal should offer the end user:

- one unified portal access with one login
- uniform user interfaces
- web access with personal profile
- tools for processing and archiving personally or as project
- equal access to important information within a given subject area, irrespective of time, place and institution
- one unified access to Danish research information
- cross-searching in all library catalogues of physical and electronic material
- unified access to international scientific journals and information databases.

Action Plan 2001-2002 for Denmark's Electronic Research Library describes the action lines of the DEF project for the remaining project period up until the end of 2002 and chart out the frames for concrete actions and activities which will take the DEF project to its successful conclusion.

The most important criteria for success within the individual action lines are as follows:

Concept development

The Steering Committee wants an implementation of a DEF after DEF organisation including secretariat as per 1. April 2002. The organisation model must be supplemented with a budget and financing model, guidelines for interaction and a five-year plan.

On the basis of the success criteria laid down for each action line, the DEF portal should be fully operational with access management, content and user facilities by the end of 2002.

The Steering Committee puts focus on the user getting involved in the development and usage of the various DEF services, electronic information opportunities, user interfaces and DEF portal tools. Methods will be developed and user investigations will be carried out currently.

Knowledge and product sharing will be established between the DEF libraries with a view to exploiting all the skills and resources which are accumulated in the DEF project.

National infrastructure

The DEF portal is launched in 2001 with an extended DEF guide, access to bibliotek.dk with cross searching in the research libraries' catalogues including ordering facilities and user administration system developed in close co-operation with The Virtual University. Implementation of cross searching in licenced bibliographic information and full text will take place during 2001 and 2002.

Library infrastructure: IT systems

The Steering Committee wishes to ensure the establishment of a common technical DEF IT-system level for the library infrastructure and to make sure that the libraries' IT is further developed in accordance with DEF and technological standards.

This will amongst other things happen by working out grants criteria and guidelines for applications for grants from DEF which guarantee the user's central position, and this also includes complying with demands for technical standards, exchange formats and information levels. Apart from this we must ensure that the libraries are willing to maintain and further develop the IT systems.

Library infrastructure: co-operation models

DEF must encourage inter-disciplinary and decentralised licence co-operations for the purpose of building up a critical mass.

Another important issue is the establishment of competence centres in connection with digitisation of collections.

It is also essential to co-ordinate the co-operative efforts concerning user involvement in relation to access and usage, i.e. licence purchase, common service and online tools. Finally one must co-operate on knowledge and resource sharing of skills, experience accumulation, methods and models.

New roles

The Steering Committee wants to place great emphasis on co-operation between libraries and research institutions in connection with electronic research publishing.

Work is also in progress on target-oriented services to researchers, teachers and students, as well as increased focus on the library's role as supplier of distance learning regarding information searching. DEF must, moreover, act as portal for licence materials – probably also for parts of the public sector.

Digital resources and licences

The DEF portal and its service must be seen as the most obvious place to search for information in relation to students, teachers and researchers. The increasing use of this service will be monitored.

Licence co-operation should be integrated into the DEF model, organisationally, economically and politically from 1. April 2002. The most important issues are at national level to formulate aims concerning equal access and professional weighting of acquisitions, as well as political guidelines for digital archiving and security measures. There will be continuous user investigations and evaluations in quantitative measurements.

Digitisation of collections

The Steering Committee wishes to work out a national policy for digitisation, including the establishment of a competence centre and also digitisation of selected collections. DEF should make its presence felt as an active partner in the European digitisation co-operation (LIBER).

Retro-conversion

The Steering Committee wishes to ensure electronic access to physical collections linked to access to electronic resources by completing the planned catalogue conversion.

The Danish Research Database

This database means the establishment of one unified access to Danish research information. Here work is in progress on e-publishing tools for researchers, marketing of the research database in relation to data suppliers, motivation projects in close co-operation with Research Councils and researchers on electronic research publication, demands for the submission of e-published research results in development contracts/performance contracts for the Research Councils/Sector Research Institutions/Universities, as well as archiving and legal deposit of research publications.

Projects and user facilities

The Steering Committee wants DEF to develop tools and services for DEF users to employ both in the library, place of work or from home, cf. success criteria for DEF user service. One criterion is the establishment of selected subject portals.

The full version of Action Plan 2001-2002 for Denmark's Electronic Research Library is available on DEF's homepage: www.deflink.dk

DEF service is

- open 24 hours
- online reservation and downloading of electronic material
- print-on-demand facilities
- electronic net librarian
- online guidance/instruction in information search, generally and specifically
- access to course modules and distance learning via The Virtual University or the educational institutions
- other types of relevant electronic Internet services

User service in DEF

Jakob Heide Petersen

Information search in DEF offers the individual user far greater opportunity for defining their personal needs in order to localise, select, organise, evaluate and perhaps even communicate relevant information. The libraries' traditional guidance of the user is in this sense being extended to include e-learning and the development of new tools. It is also necessary to test and develop guidelines that can function independent of physical space and geographical location of the libraries.

The DEF projects listed below have one particular trait in common - they set out to test new forms of user learning and support. You can find a brief description of the DEF projects amongst a series of articles on Denmark's Electronic Library in the DEF theme edition of News from Nyhavn, which was published mid-March 2001 and is the Danish National Library Authority's quarterly journal on library-related matters (in Danish).

- GODIN
- MILE
- Webvise
- Det elektroniske forskningsbibliotek i det virtuelle læringsrum (The electronic research library in the virtual learning space)
- User Education Community
- Brugertilfredshed i de elektroniske biblioteker (User satisfaction in electronic libraries)

The above-mentioned projects will become even more relevant once the DEF portal is established and the user becomes more independent of the physical location of the libraries. This will pose new challenges for the traditional library service. And so it is important to ensure that the valuable experience from these projects is shared with other libraries and that the results can be adjusted to and transferred to other libraries.

For more information please contact project consultant Jakob Heide Petersen in the DEF-secretariat on jhp@bs.dk, who will refer you to appropriate contacts within specific projects.

The DEF catalogue project

Leif Andresen

The DEF catalogue project was launched in 1999 as part of the DEF system architecture project. The object was to establish and organise a common search infrastructure, based on the Z39.50 standard and the danZIG profile. The intention was further to create a virtual common catalogue, a unified and easily accessible access via the DEF portal to search in all relevant databases with subsequent access to electronic documents or reservation of loans and photocopies for delivery anywhere in Denmark.

The primary activity was a comprehensive test run from the beginning of 2000 till January 2001. The Z39.50 servers of the 12 large DEF libraries and DanBib have been thoroughly tested. The test has served as a productive incentive for both libraries and systems suppliers to put the finishing touches to both programmes and the individual libraries' installations. Status right now is that the so-called simple searches are working satisfactorily across the libraries' catalogues, while the more complex searches as yet often do not yield a coherent result.

This is the background for a new service as part of the DEF directory which opens in the spring of 2001. It is now possible to carry out simple searches across the large DEF libraries and well as searching in the relevant library systems within a chosen subject area.

At the same time there will be a linking from the DEF directory to bibliotek.dk so that users who choose bibliotek.dk in the DEF directory start with "All research libraries" as search area.

Licences and law

Anders K. Jensen

Copyright or contract law?

When libraries buy journals in printed form (analogous form) the use of these materials is to a great extent governed by the regulations in the copyright act. When the libraries, either by purchase or as a gift, have acquired the journals, these can therefore normally be used on the spot and lent without permission from the rights holders.

As far as journals in electronic form (digital form) are concerned, use of the journals are regulated by the agreements which the libraries enter into with the rights owners as well as by general contract law.

In practice access to electronic journals is established through the libraries' acquiring a licence for the use of the journals. Giving a licence normally means that the licences (the libraries) gain access to the journals for a limited period of time and for restricted use, as opposed to journals in printed form where the libraries become the owners of the copies. Access to and use of the journals therefore depend very much on the libraries obtaining favourable terms of contract. It is important to be aware beforehand which elements the contracts should contain and what possible pitfalls there might be.

Contract law

Liberty of contract – the basis of by far the majority of all legal systems – means that the parties are at liberty to agree on what should be binding between them.

That is quite all right in the case of equal contract parties, like for example companies used to negotiating on commercial terms.

When it is a question of contracts between publishers and libraries where the libraries are anxious to gain access to the material, one can hardly talk of equal contract parties. Licence contracts are as a rule drafted by the publishers' legal advisers, using such terms as only lawyers or someone with a thorough knowledge of contract law will be able fully to comprehend. Library staff may sometimes know quite a lot about copyright law, but it is not always enough!

It is important to make sure that how one wants to use the material is in accordance with the frames of the contract. So the library ought to consider very carefully and list the ways in which the library and its users intend to use the material. If the library has not made sure that all these aspects are not written into the contract, it might well mean renegotiations later on. It is, of course, a question of negotiation and price whether one obtains the desired objective.

Guarantee of copyright protection

To be on the safe side one should try to introduce a clause in the contract which guarantees that the contract is subject to common copyright rules. It can be difficult to assess the entire contract complex, and the library should not be in a less favourable position than under the general copyright regulations.

Choice of law

One important decision is the choice of which country's laws should control the contract. What is the use of §36 of the Contract Act protecting the weak contract party when your contract states that it is governed by the legal regulations of the State of New York?

It is important to try to secure Danish law in the contract and have litigation subjected to Danish law courts. It is very costly and cumbersome to hire an American lawyer and travel to USA in order to settle a dispute about the contract. Unfortunately this is one of the points where the suppliers rarely give in. However, it has been known. In the DEF secretariat we have managed in a couple of case to ensure that the contract is regulated by Danish law.

What exactly are we buying?

This clause is possibly the most important one in the contract. Here it is stated which rights the licensor passes on to the licensee.

It may be an advantage to divide the contract into two parts:
1) what use can be made of the material and

2) what use cannot be made of the material. This will also be in the interest of the libraries. Licence contracts often contain a clause to the effect that licensee must try to prevent unlawful use of the material. It is obviously easier to explain to the users what constitutes unlawful use if the contract clearly states what is – and particularly what is not – allowed.

The electronic development marches on at a pace. It is important to be aware of this when negotiating licence contracts. From the licensee's point of view the contracts should allow the broadest possible access to the material. As far as possible the contracts should therefore be future-orientated so that as a licensee one does not purchase a product which quickly turns out to be technically obsolete.

User groups

It is very important how the different user groups are defined in the contract.

In the DEF secretariat we have seen examples of how in certain cases people have not realised that it must be stated in the contract if a user group, like so-called “walk-in users”, should have access to the material. Otherwise it will cost you extra! “Walk-in users” are mostly defined as users coming from outside the institution.

Particularly about ILL

Access to interlibrary loans is not a matter of course. It is part of the contract that this must be regulated. The libraries must secure access to ILL – at least in printed form.

It is by no means easy to persuade the suppliers to accept electronic document delivery, but we have managed to get a couple of suppliers to accept it on an experimental basis. Their argument for not allowing electronic document delivery is that they are apprehensive about the number of possibilities for misuse through digital copying.

Contract expiry and termination

Be aware of the expiry date of the contract. For one thing, one should, of course, not sign an irrevocable contract. Secondly, a number of contracts contain a clause on automatic renewal. This might mean that one has to give notice of termination of the contract six months prior to the expiry of the licence if one does not want to renew it.

Conditions which could lead to termination of the contract should be described in detail. The library must be free to rescind the contract if the material is not delivered or in case of prolonged delays or substantial defects.

Guarantees/indemnification

The licence contract should contain a declaration to the effect that licensor holds the rights to the material or the right to give the library access to the material.

It should also appear from the contract that licensor indemnifies the library in case of losses due to possible infringement of the rights of a third party (for example the rights of an author).

Non-cancellation clauses

Such clauses are designed to forbid the libraries to cancel their subscription for the journals in printed form. Naturally one should not accept such clauses. Basically it should be a question of two different products offered for sale independently of each other.

Conclusion/recommendation

As it would appear from the above there are a number of issues to be considered carefully before signing a licence contract on access to electronic journals. This article does not pretend to be exhaustive, and we therefore recommend that legal advice is taken before signing a contract.

DEF licences

Anette Schneider

Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEF) includes an area called digital resources and this is where the DEF licences belong.

DEF licences are licences signed by DEF on behalf of a number of libraries, with or without financial support from Denmark's Electronic Research Library.

There is about DKK 36 mil. available for DEF licences over the project period and right now (early 2001) approx. 24 mil. have been spent. In the budget for 2001 9 mil. have been set aside for the purchase of licences.

Since 1998 DEF has been working on the establishment of licences to databases, reference works and electronic journals. DEF's primary target group are researchers, students and people employed in the research institutions. The secondary target group are the public libraries, but the year 2000 has seen the development of a closer co-operation with the county libraries' licence group for the purpose of exchanging experiences, avoiding unnecessary duplication of work and establishing common licences.

The licence group

The Conference of Directors of the Research Libraries has appointed a licence group. The group consists of one representative from each of the 12 major research libraries, one representative from The Small Directors' Forum and 1 representative from the county libraries and has met seven times in 2000.

The selection of prospective licences takes place in the licence group, followed by a sounding of the amount of interest amongst all the research libraries. On the basis of this it is decided whether this licence will be further negotiated by the Danish National Library Authority, or whether it will be just a few libraries trying to establish a consortium licence.

When a product has been in operation for about 6-9 months, it is evaluated. During 2000 six DEF licences were evaluated prior to renewal. What these evaluations taught us is amongst other things that marketing is something which must be looked into very closely in the nearest future.

DEF licences

Today DEF licences have been established on 24 products and several more are in the pipeline. New products are arriving all the time, and the DEF secretariat is happy to receive any suggestions from libraries and users.

More detailed description of the products for which licences have been agreed, can be seen on:

<http://www.deflink.dk/def.ihtml?fil=natio>

Here you will also find a list of present negotiations.

Distribution on subject areas

It is rather important that the distribution on subject areas is as even as possible. This is not the case as yet because not all subject areas have changed to the electronic medium. A distribution on subject area is perhaps not really just after all, as the purchase price for journals within the individual subject areas also vary. The licence group has concluded that the distribution is as fair as possible at the moment.

The diagram below shows the distribution (as per December 2000) in percentages and spent DKK respectively:

SAM = SS (social science/studies)

	%	DKK
STM	50,8%	12.232.685
HUM	25,7%	6.189.118
SAM	23,5%	5.657.195

Problems

But the introduction of electronic journals is not without its problems.

The problems in connection with DEF licences are particularly to do with the financial aspect. Subsidies from DEF range from 0-100%. But the publishers are afraid of losing profit, and as a basis use the year in which the licence is signed (Year 0).

The conclusion is that it has not become any less expensive for the libraries, but they can now offer a greater number of services. One should not just look at acquisitions either – copies/loans from other libraries will also be affected by the establishment of licences.

Principles for purchase of licences for electronic journals

We naturally try as far as possible to obtain uniform licences, but right now no two licence agreements allow the same things. Whatever we want, it is going to cost money and it is important to be fully aware of the legal implications. It is important that the libraries can continue their activities and offer the same services as before – and hopefully something extra. What is allowed in one licence, is forbidden in another. We do realise this in DEF and are concentrating hard on this issue.

Below is listed a number of principles which we endeavour to include in our licence negotiations:

- The licence agreement must be subject to Danish law
- The libraries must not be less favourably placed than according to copyright regulations
- The licence agreement must contain a guarantee that licensor holds the rights to give access to the material and that licensor exempts the libraries from demands from a third party
- 'Walk-in users' must have access to the material
- Interlibrary loans (between libraries) must be allowed
- Electronic document delivery must be allowed

- Guarantee of future access to the material (archiving)
- Demands for statistics on usage
- The price for the service must be all inclusive
- No non-cancelling clauses for journals in printed form
- We apply international principles for the purchase of journals (LIBER, ICOLC, ECOLC, EBLIDA)
- Remote access

Marketing

In the evaluations it was pointed out that lack of marketing of the products was the reason for limited usage, but this is not really a general problem. We are, however, working on various ways in which to spread the knowledge of these products.

We have taken the following steps as regards marketing of electronic licences:

DEF-link

Information on DEF licences is currently updated on DEF-link with details about registration, titles, subject areas, prices etc.

Theme meetings

Theme meetings arranged together with The Small Directors' Forum. In connection with the March meetings 2001, experience exchange groups with the following subjects have been set up:

- Aleph as electronic library
- Subject portals
- Marketing
- User instruction
- Gateways

Instruction

When contract has been signed for a new product, instruction in the use of it should be available – preferably by vendor/instructor from the supplier.

Supplier meetings

Are planned for 2001. So far we intend to have two meetings where present suppliers are given the chance to explain and show their products in the course of one hour. Four products will be presented at each meeting and the meetings are open to both present participants and other interested parties.

Licences accessible via DEF portal

Together with the DEF portal editors we are trying to highlight the content of the licences via the portals. Initially this will happen in two ways:

- A list of products. The list will include a brief description of the product, participants and link to search site.
- A list of all accessible titles, with subject headings and which package the titles belongs to, as well as links to the homepage of the journal.

Future licences – what are they going to look like?

At EURO ICOLC in December 2000 the different licence models were presented.

- Based on the collection of printed journals in the year of accession (possibly the year before) = year 0. Add to this about 10-15% electronic fee. This gives access to the other participants' journals. It is now on the cards that it will be possible to choose whether the main product should be printed or electronic. If electronic is chosen, the basis will be changed to 90% of the value. It is also possible to buy a printed edition at 25% of the printing price.
- Packages. The price is independent of the number and value of the printed subscriptions of the institutions. On the other hand the price does depend on the number of students and researchers of the institution. Not just the researchers to whom the product is relevant, but the total number.
- Choice. New model where each year one chooses the titles to which the library wants access and will pay for.

New models are sure to emerge. At the moment we have the first two options, but the third one – Choice – is gathering force. But – is this the model the libraries want? It re-introduces the accession policy, but it also brings with it a lot of work, such as registration, re-cataloguing etc.

Retro-conversion under DEF

Rubina K. Afzal

At present retro-conversion of more than 2.5 mil. catalogue cards, at a total amount of approximately 20 mil. DKK, comprising card catalogues from 14 research libraries, is well under way. Six libraries are jointly inviting tenders for the assignment.

Within library circles the discussion of the need to retro-convert research library catalogues has long since been dismissed in favour of the discussion of the volume and costs connected with this enterprise.

A DEF appropriation of 20 mil. DKK has created the basis for a huge retro-project under DEF. The purpose of retro-converting the libraries' card catalogues is to improve user access to information stored about the physical collections – i.e. which books the library owns as this is a fundamental precondition for the establishment of DEF.

Ever since the “Recommendation from the Working Party on Retro-conversion of the Research Libraries' Catalogues” (Indstilling fra Arbejdsgruppen om Retrokonvertering af Forskningsbibliotekernes Kataloger) was approved by the DEF Steering Committee in October 1999, retro-activities have increased in the libraries entitled to subsidies. The target is to have completed all the selected retro-conversion projects by the time the DEF appropriation runs out in 2002. For a comprehensive list of retro-conversion projects go to <http://www.deflink.dk>.

As an example of the activity level six libraries should be mentioned: University Library of Southern Denmark, The Danish Pharmaceutical Library, The Danish Veterinary and Agricultural Library, The Library of the Royal Academy of

Fine Arts, Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Library and The Library of the National Museum which have taken concerted action on inviting EU-tenders. The tender process is running according to plan and includes a total of 500,800 catalogue cards.

Apart from the library catalogues, the importance of retro-conversion of the National Bibliography and national main subject bibliographies has been pointed out, as the bibliographies contain information on bibliographical units that to a large extent refer to journal articles, articles in books etc. A working party is adding the finishing touches to a recommendation to the DEF Steering Committee with a professional evaluation of the chosen bibliographies and index works.

The libraries' needs for retro-conversion are not likely to be exhausted even after an extensive retro-activity under the auspices of DEF. The special appropriation of the Ministry of Culture § 21.31.04.40 (Grants towards retro-conversion), which is administrated by the Danish National Library Authority, returns to the National Budget 2002 ff. and will be used for retro-conversion and other electronic mediation of catalogues of Danish and foreign collections at the re-search libraries under the Ministry of Culture. The special appropriation is intended to supplement the ordinary retro-activities of the libraries and accelerate the development. The appropriation is used for this purpose until the main catalogues at the libraries of the Ministry of Culture have been retro-converted.

A proper guide for application for grants from the retro-conversion appropriation of the Danish National Library Authority will be published on both <http://www.bs.dk> and <http://www.deflink.dk> before the end of 2001.

DEF grants towards library IT-systems

Hanne Marie Kværndrup

Approximately 55 libraries have already in the first part of the DEF project period received DEF grants towards acquisition and upgrading of systems within this activity line. And even more libraries of various sizes now have the opportunity of applying for DEF grants.

The goal of DEF is in relation to all libraries at research institutions and institutions of further education and via DEF grants:

- To contribute to the establishment of more library system collaborations. This could be professional or institutional collaborations
- To strengthen professional cross-institutional co-operation concerning the design of subject gateways through library system collaboration
- To strengthen the libraries' co-operative role in relation to the core institutions in connection with electronic (research) publishing
- To ensure up-to-date technical levels of the institutions' library systems with Z39.50 system modules and servers
- To ensure broad use of electronic mediation through the DEF Portal and other electronic services within DEF.

The invitation to join system collaborations builds upon the co-operation which the DEF project has initiated amongst approximately 100 research libraries. One example of the system collaboration is the health and clinical information subject area where approximately 35 libraries at present

work together within the Danish National Library of Science and Medicine's system.

With its funding policy DEF wants to underline the necessity of cross-institutional co-operations on acquisition and operation of the IT-systems of libraries/information institutions.

Fundamentally the DEF project and the DEF libraries/information institutions should together be able to ensure the optimal use of:

- Economic resources
- Technical resources and competencies
- Technical standards and interfaces
- Common system facilities and tools
- Library professional resources and competencies
- Common electronic information resources.

DEF considers it very important to ensure a homogeneous technological IT-level within the DEF libraries/institutions, and to ensure the continuing technical innovation and growth in the DEF co-operation – also after year 2002.

These system collaborations often extend much further than mere technical co-operation. The collaboration helps the development of other professional co-operations i.e. concerning the establishment of subject gateways, procurement and access to electronic knowledge sharing.

Brief status on international relations and activities

Bo Öhrström

Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEF) is continually seeking to enlarge and extend its network of international relations to ensure innovation within the project as well as to provide students, researchers and other users with access to high quality electronic resources at international level.

A number of criteria have been listed as objectives for Denmark's Electronic Research Library and naturally many of these depend on exchanging knowledge with similar international projects and initiatives to ensure optimum variety, quality, and mutual inspiration.

Relations

DEF's existing international relations can be divided into the following two groups:

Commercial relations:

This group primarily concerns direct negotiations with multinational suppliers of electronic journals and databases to guarantee efficiency and the minimum of costs. In some cases however negotiations have been conducted through an intermediary Danish supplier. Due to the complexity of the market the options available to the inexperienced purchaser are limited. Consequently it is often useful to establish a professional liaison or partnership with the supplier which will ensure the continuity of favourable deals and contracts.

Non-commercial relations:

This group mainly consists of other projects or national initiatives similar to Denmark's Electronic Research Library, and provides a valuable network of inspiration, knowledge and information that benefit all aspects of DEF.

Activities

In practice this involves activities within:

- Research on - and purchase of electronic licenses
- Development of technical architecture and user interfaces

A joint initiative of purchasing electronic licenses is established primarily through close Nordic co-operation and through membership of ICOLC/ECOLC. The Nordic co-operation contains all aspects of purchase, renewal, service and filing of electronic resources and serves to underpin a joint Nordic effort in negotiations of prices and services with the suppliers. In the case of ICOLC/ECOLC, Denmark's Electronic Research Library at an early stage joined the work of ICOLC (International Coalition Of Library Consortia) in order to be able to participate in international efforts concerning contracts and purchase of electronic resources.

The European equivalent of the American ICOLC - ECOLC (European Coalition Of Library Consortia) - also has Denmark's Electronic Research Library as a member and active participant. Both organisations play a leading role in relation to suppliers of journals and the collective pressure from ICOLC/ECOLC is a valuable factor when trying to negotiate reasonable prices and contracts.

The development of technical architecture and user interfaces takes place primarily within the framework of the Nordic countries. Here models of interfaces, access control systems, methods of cross-searching in catalogues and standardisation issues are discussed. As the demands for end-solutions increases, these activities will gradually spread further afield to involve many more countries in the future.

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