



Quick facts about Sweden

- Area: 174,000 sq mi (450,000 km²), the third largest country in Western Europe
- Longest north-south distance: 978 mi (1,574 km)
- Longest east-west distance: 310 mi (499 km)
- Capital: Stockholm
- Population: 9.3 million inhabitants
- Languages: Swedish; recognized minority languages: Sami (Lapp), Finnish, Meänkieli (Tornedalen Finnish), Yiddish, Romani Chib
- Form of government: Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy
- Parliament: The Riksdag, with 349 members in one chamber
- Religion: In practice, Sweden is very secularized. The Church of Sweden is Evangelical Lutheran; co-exists with many other beliefs
- Life expectancy: Men 79 years, women 83 years

Visit www.sweden.se for more facts

Swedish Library Association



The Swedish Library Association is an independent, non-profit organisation that operates freely, without any political affiliation. The Association unites and works in support of all types of libraries by disseminating information about libraries and their activities, by initiating public discussion and creating public opinion, by lobbying and by promoting research and development.

Libraries contribute to development, democracy and a world-class Sweden

The Swedish Library Association loves libraries and works to promote a high standard library system. We want Sweden to be a world-class country. Therefore, we are not happy to see reading skills decreasing. We are not content when schools lack staffed libraries. More than every fourth branch library, almost 400, have been closed down since 1990. All of this, we want to change.

The Swedish Library Association is a non-profit organisation that is independent of party politics, but, we work hard to improve Swedish library politics. Every citizen must have increased access to books and other sources of information and library funding must be strengthened. For example, we want all pupils to be guaranteed staffed school libraries. For Sweden to develop, it is important for our citizens to have world-class information literacy. Here, the libraries have a large role to play. Do you want to take part in this work too? You are most welcome to become a member!

This is why high standard libraries are necessary!

- Libraries make it possible for people to access whatever it is they are searching for. They provide free access to information, ideas and allow for free expression and creative activities.
- Libraries are resources for education and research. They provide support for life-long learning, independent decision-making and cultural development.
- Libraries contribute to intellectual freedom and help to secure democratic values and human rights.



Annual meeting at Malmö City Library.



Niclas Lindberg, Secretary General, Swedish Library Association and Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth, Minister for Culture.

How the organisation works

Political advocacy

Sweden needs a national library political agenda. Today's lack of coordination means resources are being wasted and that the libraries' full power is not being fully utilised. This is one out of several demands that the Swedish Library Association advocates for with decision-makers and that is now starting to show results.

In order to form public opinion in favour of our demands we produce our own reports and conduct our own surveys. We write debate articles, responses to public enquiries and meet with politicians. We also actively participate in larger events such as the annual political meeting "Almedalen Week" and the Gothenburg Book Fair as exhibitors and as arrangers of seminars.



Almedalen Week.

Research & development

Our experience over the past few years has demonstrated that the Swedish Library Association, being an independent and free actor, has a unique ability to participate in the debate and form opinion on important library-related issues. However, it is also important to encourage development. The Association has therefore introduced Research Initiation Grants for applications within the library and information science area, and opportunities for institutional members to apply for development grants.

Member commitment

It must be easy for the members to become actively involved in the Swedish Library Association. Therefore, the Association works through networks, and different work groups. Their directions and structures vary over time, and we publish news of these changes on our website.

The Swedish Library Association also has six regional associations spread around the country. The regional associations work to safeguard the member interests and wishes by, among other things, facilitating the formation of informal member networks – for instance on study visits, at lectures and on excursions.



Gothenburg Book Fair.

Awards

Every year, the Swedish Library Association awards prizes such as: the Bengt Hjelmqvist Prize for outstanding public library efforts, the Collijn Award for the best Library and Information Science master's thesis of the year, and the Greta Renborg Award for the best marketing work. Three awards are handed out for efforts within the children's books world: the Elsa Beskow Plaque, the Nils Holgersson Plaque and the Carl von Linné Plaque. The Association also awards the Anira Prize to an author of fiction for their entire body of work, and also awards for the Bookmobile of the Year.



Inga Lundén, President, Swedish Library Association.



Political advocacy during the annual "Almedalen week".

Membership

The Swedish Library Association unites libraries and librarians from all library sectors. The Association welcomes anyone who acknowledges its aims. You can either be a private or an institutional member. In 2009, we had 3.700 members.

Opportunities for international contacts

As a member, you also gain access to several international networks within the library world. The Association stimulates international contacts for members, for instance through travel scholarships. The Swedish Library Association is a member of many international organisations.

IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, is an important platform for the co-operation with other countries and library development around the world. The Swedish Library Association is a member of all the different IFLA sections. Other organisations are; LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche/Association of European Research Libraries), EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) and FAIFE (Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression).

The Swedish Library Journal - Biblioteksbladet

The Swedish Library Association publishes Biblioteksbladet, The Swedish Library Journal, 10 times per year. Biblioteksbladet is read by librarians and library professionals.

Organisation

The Swedish Library Association's highest decision-making body is the annual general meeting. During the year, between these meetings, a board with a secretariat directs the work. The secretariat consists of eight co-workers, of which, two work at the journal Biblioteksbladet (BBL).

The Swedish Library Association – a brief history

The Swedish Library Association was founded in 2000, as a result of a merger between Sveriges Allmänna Biblioteksförning, SAB (founded 1915), and Svenska Bibliotekariesamfundet, SBS (founded in 1921). SAB was mostly focused on public libraries while SBS focused on research libraries. Since the merger, their work has been channelled through one joint association.

Classification system

As early as 1921, Sveriges Allmänna Biblioteksförning, SAB, had created a classification system for Swedish libraries – the SAB system. This classification system is unique to Sweden and has been continuously developed over the years. In November 2008, however, the National Library of Sweden made the decision to change over to Dewey. The goal of the change is an increased internationalisation, rationalisation and increased quality in the area of classification. Since the decision of the National Library of Sweden, the Swedish Library Association has spoken out in favour of a general Swedish changeover to Dewey. This process has already started and is directed by the National Library of Sweden.



What does the “Library Lovers” logo stand for?



The Swedish Library Association wants to increase political commitment to publicly funded libraries. Sweden is the only Nordic country that does not have a national library policy. Consequently, Swedes do not have access to the full potential to be derived from a world-leading library system.

Sweden should strive to create a library system which covers the whole country and which can help develop a knowledge-based society that is sustainable in the long term and available to everyone. Therefore, the Library Association has cooperated with the Swedish Writers' Union, among others, to draw up proposals for the content of a national library policy. Eight library-related political recommendations have been worked out and presented to the politicians responsible. To obtain support for these proposals, the Association is working intensively to influence public opinion.

Since the spring of 2008, we have been conducting a special campaign whose theme is “Sweden needs a national library policy” and the “Library Lovers” heart is the campaign logo.

During 2009, we could see real results from our work. The Committee of Inquiry on Cultural Policy (Kulturutredningen) and the important Culture Bill (Kulturpropositionen) that followed their report confirmed the need for national coordination in the library area. In the Swedish Parliament, both the governing majority and the opposition now hold this opinion and there is a strong parliamentary consensus about the need for a national library policy. Another area

where the Association's work has been fruitful is in the area of school libraries. The government bill for a new Education Act clearly says that all pupils, at both public and private schools, must have access to a school library.

As a result of the Association's work, the National Library of Sweden has been given the responsibility to coordinate in the library area; Sweden has thereby moved several steps closer to having a national library policy.

Sweden needs a national library policy!

- A national library policy creates better opportunities for a knowledge-based society to develop, grow and flourish
- A national library policy strengthens democracy and the freedom of information and freedom of speech
- A national library policy leads to gains thanks to increased coordination
- A national library policy increases access to library services, geographically and demographically
- A national library policy reduces the risk of gaps in society
- A national library policy facilitates the use of library services by the population of Sweden
- A national library policy strengthens Sweden as a knowledge-based nation



Library Lovers activities in Stockholm.

Facts about Swedish libraries

Libraries in society

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS IN SOCIETY (PER CENT)

	Very high	Rather high	Neither high or low	Rather low	Very low	Balance of trust*
Libraries	25	45	26	2	2	+66
Medical system	15	53	21	9	2	+56
Universities and university colleges	7	46	41	4	2	+46
Radio and TV	5	45	40	8	2	+40
Grammar school	6	39	38	14	3	+28
Daily newspapers	2	22	47	22	7	-6
Municipal board	2	18	51	21	8	-9
Swedish Public Employment Services	1	9	35	34	21	-45

Libraries are trusted by more Swedes than any other institution in society. 70 per cent have very high or rather high trust in libraries and only 4 per cent have rather low or very low trust in libraries.

* Balance of trust is a measure where the amount with rather low or very low trust is deducted from the amount of rather high or very high trust. Sören Holmberg & Lennart Weibull: "Högligt institutionsförtroende", in Sören Holmberg & Lennart Weibull (eds.): Svensk höst. SOM survey 2008, The SOM Institute 2009, p 135f. The table contains a selection of institutions.

85 per cent of people in Sweden consider libraries to be important for society to function.

Lars Höglund & Eva Wahlström: "Biblioteken – kontinuitet eller nya trender?" in Sören Holmberg & Lennart Weibull (eds.): Skilda världar. SOM survey 2007, The SOM Institute 2008, p 277.

Two out of three Swedes (69 per cent) think that the libraries have developed for the better in recent years.

SKOP 2007.

91 per cent of municipal councillors and municipal civil servants think that one should invest more in libraries.

SKOP 2007.

Nine out of ten people think it is important that The Swedish Library Law (Bibliotekslagen) exists.

Synovate Sweden /Temo, May 2006.

68 per cent of Swedes think it is important for municipalities to invest more in mobile libraries.

Synovate Sweden /Temo, May 2006.

People that often use libraries are more tolerant toward refugees and have higher trust in others when compared to people who rarely use libraries.

Lars Höglund & Eva Wahlström: "Bibliotek och läsande – individuell stimulans eller samhällsnytta?" in Sören Holmberg & Lennart Weibull (eds.): Det nya Sverige. SOM survey 2006, The SOM Institute 2007, p 248.

People in Sweden are distinctly more content with the libraries than with other municipal services. Furthermore, the percentage of people that are content has increased the recent years.

Lars Höglund & Eva Wahlström: "Bibliotekens tjänster idag och i morgon?" in Sören Holmberg & Lennart Weibull (eds.): Svensk höst. SOM survey 2008, The SOM Institute 2009, p 175.

Libraries are the part of the culture sector that the most people consider to be important to support with public funding.

Western SOM 2006, The SOM Institute 2007, p 55.

Branches

In Sweden there are approximately 1300 public libraries, of which 290 are main libraries and slightly less than 1000 are branch libraries. In addition, there are slightly more than 700 other lending stations.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 9.

There is a national library – the National Library of Sweden (Kungl. biblioteket) – and approximately 40 university and university college libraries with 150 service points.

Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden /Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 7.

There are around 40 government libraries and specialized libraries open to the general public, all together totalling 60 service stations.

Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden /Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 7.

In Sweden there are around 90 mobile libraries, with approximately 7 250 stops.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 9.

There are close to 115 hospital libraries in Sweden.

Public libraries 2006, Swedish Arts Council 2007, p 26.

Around 3000 of the country's 6000 grammar and upper secondary schools have a library of their own, or a shared or integrated school library that is open to students and is staffed at least one hour per week.

School libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 6, 19.

Visits and reading

98 per cent of Swedes have visited a library at some point.

The Cultural Barometer 2002, Swedish Arts Council 2003, p 50.

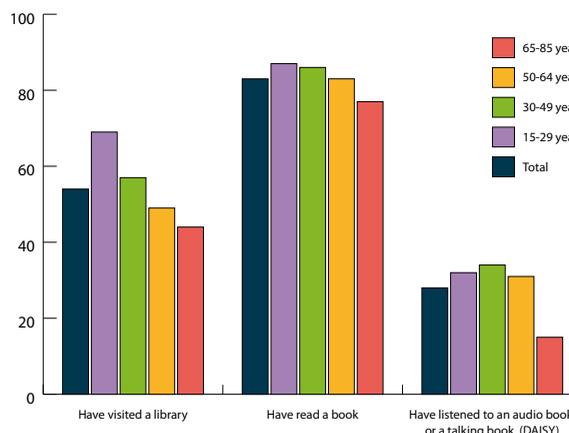
In 2008, the public libraries had almost 68 million visits. Figures and information about visits via the Internet are still lacking.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 23.

The number of active visitors at the public libraries increased by 69 000 people between the years 2007 to 2008 and is now 2.7 millions.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 43.

VISIT AND READING HABITS AT DIFFERENT AGES



There are more young people than older people reading books and visiting libraries.

Kulturvanor och livsstil i Sverige 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 16.

The most frequent public library visitors are young people between ages 9 and 14.

The Cultural Barometer 2002, Swedish Arts Council 2003, p 51.

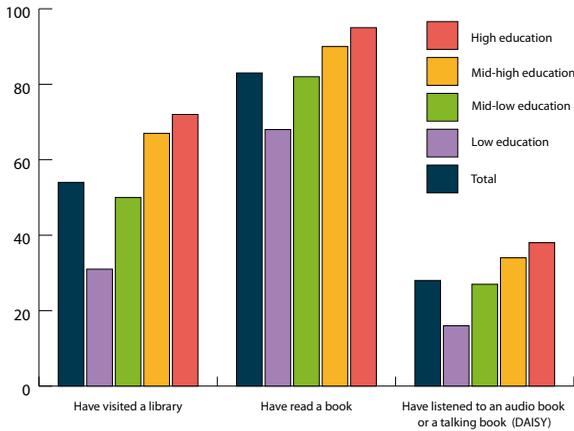
Education is of major importance for how often someone visits a library.

Kulturvanor och livsstil i Sverige 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 20.

In 2008, 63 600 visits per day were made at research libraries, which is an increase of 4 per cent compared to 2007.

Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden /Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 10.

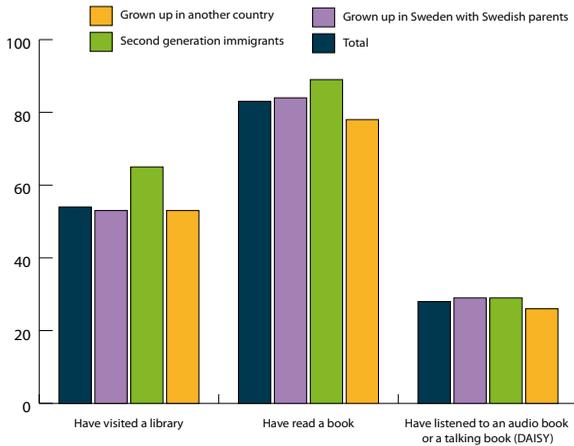
VISIT AND READING HABITS IN RELATION TO EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND



Education is of major importance for how often someone visits a library.

Kulturvanor och livsstil i Sverige 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 20.

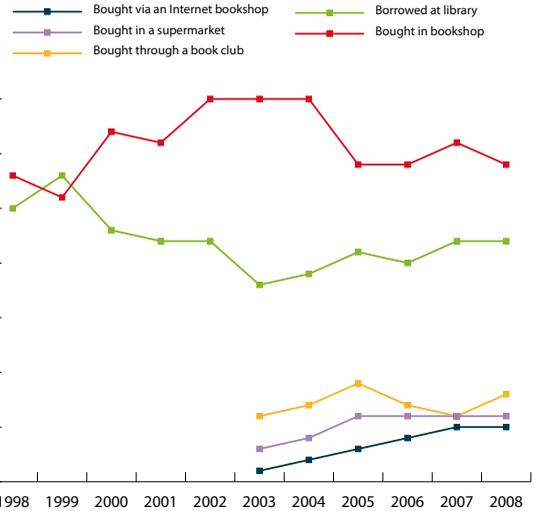
VISIT AND READING HABITS IN RELATION TO ETHNICITY



Second generation immigrants are more frequent library visitors and read more than people from a completely Swedish background.

Kulturvanor och livsstil i Sverige 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 17.

BOOK ACQUISITION AMONG BOOK READERS



Among people who, in 2008, said they had read at least one book during the past week, 22 per cent reported they had borrowed the book at a library. This is an increase compared to 2003, when 18 per cent of book readers said they had borrowed the book at a library.

Media barometer 2008, NORDICOM (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research) 2009, p 105. Media barometer 2004–2007. Ulla Carlsson: Bokläsning i den digitala tidsåldern, NORDICOM (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research) 2004, table 19.

Slightly more than 10 per cent of Swedes visited a research or university library during the past year.

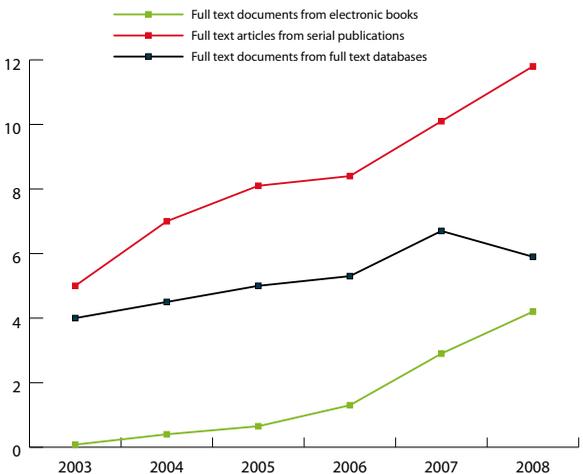
The Cultural Barometer 2002, Swedish Arts Council 2003, p 61.

On an average day, people in Sweden spend 20 minutes reading books, 42 minutes reading newspapers and magazines and 68 minutes using the Internet.

Media barometer 2008, NORDICOM (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research) 2009, p 22.

Media stock and items borrowed

DOWNLOADS AT THE RESEARCH LIBRARIES



In the year 2008, 4.2 million electronic books were downloaded at research libraries. That is an increase of 1.3 millions compared to the previous year.

Research libraries 2007, National Library of Sweden /Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2008, p 11. Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden /Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 13.

In 2002, there were slightly more than 50 000 electronic book titles held by research libraries. Six years later there were 1.7 million titles. During the past year alone, the media stock has increased by slightly more than 40 per cent.

Research libraries 2002, National Library of Sweden/Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2003, p 1. Research libraries 2007, National Library of Sweden/Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2008, p 11. Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden/Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 11.

An ever-increasing number of periodicals (magazines, etc) are held in digital form. Currently, 82 per cent of research library periodicals are digital.

Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden/Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 11.

The number of loans of AV media items at the public libraries has increased. In 1990, approximately 4 million loans of AV media items were made per year. By the year 2000, this number rose to almost 10 million. In 2008, 11.6 million AV media loans were made.

Folk- och skolbiblioteken 1996, Swedish Arts Council 1997, p 2. Public libraries 2000, Swedish Arts Council 2001, p 29. Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 21.

A growing part of the AV media stock at public libraries consists of new acquisitions. In 2008 it was 11.7 per cent compared to 10.9 per cent in 2007.

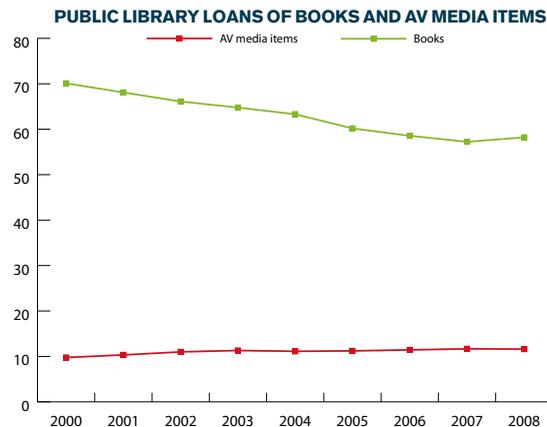
Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 17.

There are 39.5 million books at the Swedish public libraries.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 15.

The percentage amount of newly acquired books at the public libraries – a key factor in attracting library visitors – is 5.2 per cent. That is an increase compared to previous year (4.8 per cent in 2007).

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 17.



In 2008, there were 58.2 millions books borrowed at public libraries – an increase of one million compared to the year before.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 19, 21.

Of the books borrowed at public libraries in 2008, 27 per cent were non-fiction literature for adults and 25 per cent fiction for adults. Since 1993, more non-fiction than fiction has been borrowed. Children's books are increasing their share of the total number of items borrowed and they now constitute almost half of all borrowed books (49 per cent).

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 40.

In 2008, the total number of loans at public libraries was almost 70 million. The total number of items borrowed per citizen per year at the public libraries is 7.6, an increase from 7.5 in 2007.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 20.

In 2007, the most borrowed authors at public libraries and school libraries were: Astrid Lindgren, Martin Widmark and Gunilla Bergström.

The Swedish Authors' Fund (Sveriges författarfond).

Staff, service and economy

The percentage amount of public libraries (main libraries) open on Sunday has increased from 15.5 to 18.6 per cent over the past two years. The average number of open hours at main libraries is 44 hours per week, which is the same figure as in 2006.

Public libraries 2006, Swedish Arts Council 2007, p 39. Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 42.

In the past year, funding to public libraries increased somewhat, calculated at fixed rates. At variable rates, however, funding levels decreased. The annual operating cost per inhabitant and year is 387 SEK.

Public libraries 2007, Swedish Arts Council 2008, p 15. Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 12.

4 800 man-years were worked at the Swedish public libraries in 2008. Slightly more than half of the staff were librarians. A fifth of the man-years were used for work with children and youth.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 11, 33.

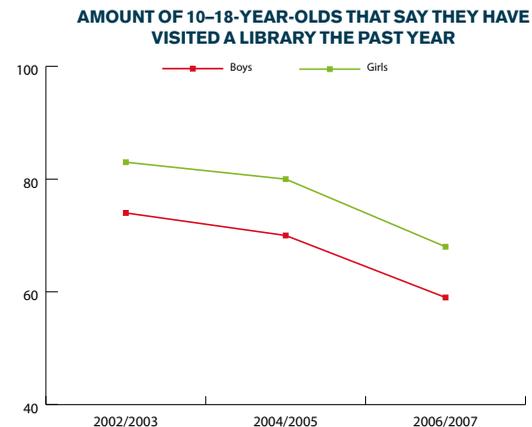
At the research libraries, slightly above 2 100 full man-years were carried out.

Research libraries 2008, National Library of Sweden/Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 15.

27 per cent of the schools with their own school library state that they have a school librarian or upper secondary school librarian. Teachers (with or without library training) form the largest category of personnel (33 per cent), while library assistants and other staff constitute 17 per cent each.

School libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 24.

Children, reading and libraries



Library visits among children and young people age 10 to 18 are decreasing.

Children's Living Conditions, Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2005, p 61. A selection of welfare statistics, Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2007, p 15f. Children's Leisure Time, Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2009, p 25.

Library visits are decreasing in the 16 to 19 year old age group. In 1998/1999, 78 per cent of the boys and 88 per cent of the girls visited a library during the year. In 2006, the amount was 47 per cent of the boys and 66 per cent of the girls.

Swedish Arts Council/Survey on Living Conditions (ULF) 2008.

In 1980, children aged 0–14 years borrowed, on average, 20.3 books at the library every year. In 2008, the number was 18.6.

Public libraries 2007, Swedish Arts Council 2008, p 22. Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 20.

The share of newly acquired children's book is increasing somewhat. In 2007, new acquisitions constituted 6.6 per cent of the collections. In 2008, the share was 7 per cent.

Public libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 17.

“Having access to a library and using it has a large impact on the development of reading skills and interest in reading”.

Barns läskompetens i Sverige och i världen, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2001, p 28.

Swedish ten-year-olds scored lower in the international PIRLS-study (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) of 2006 compared to 2001. Their results were also worse in 2001, compared to results in the same study for 1991. The decline in 2006 is not caused by an increase of the amount of weak readers – instead it is the amount of really good readers that has gone down.

Barns läskompetens i Sverige och i världen, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2001, p 10-14. PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) 2006, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2007, p 8, 65f.

Among Swedish ten-year-olds the group that reads a lot for pleasure has diminished strongly between 2001 and 2006, as has the group of ten-year olds with a very positive attitude to reading.

PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) 2006, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2007, p 9, 65f.

On an average day, approximately 60 per cent of 9–14-year olds and one third of 15–24-year olds read a book.

Media barometer 2008, NORDICOM (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research) 2009, p 98.

84 per cent of 9–14-year olds and 58 per cent of 15–24-year olds read books in an average week.

Media barometer 2008, NORDICOM (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research) 2009, p 101.

The difference in reading skills between boys and girls is big in Sweden compared to other countries.

Barns läskompetens i Sverige och i världen, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2001, pp 14-17. PISA 2003, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) /OECD 2004, pp 130-134. PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) 2006, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2007, pp 8-9. PISA 2006, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2007, p 90f.

Children that have many books around them at their home have better reading skills. However, children in Sweden today have less and less access to books in their homes.

Barns läskompetens i Sverige och i världen, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2001, p 22. PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) 2006, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2007, p 75.

Library users read to kids more often than non-library users do. Reading aloud to children has a very significant influence on their further language development and information literacy.

Lars Höglund & Eva Wahlström: "Biblioteket, barnen och framtiden" in Sören Holmberg & Lennart Weibull (eds.): Du stora nya världen. SOM survey 2005, The SOM institute 2006, p 120-123.

28 per cent of school units have their own, open, library that is staffed at least six hours per week. Another 16 per cent share one with another school or a public library.

School libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 6.

56 per cent of school units state that they do not have a school library, only a book room or book collection, a school library that is not open to the students or one that is staffed five hours per week or less.

School libraries 2008, Swedish Arts Council 2009, p 6.

Only 6 per cent of the Swedish pupils attend a school with a full-time librarian. 25 per cent of pupils attend a school with a part-time librarian.

PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) 2006, The Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) 2007, p 99.

Well-staffed school libraries improve the pupils' results in reading skill tests with between 10 to 18 per cent.

Keith Curry Lance: "Libraries and student achievement. The importance of school libraries for improving student test scores", Threshold winter 2004, pp 8-9.



Swedish Library Association Orientation of Activities

Vision and intention

- Everyone will live in freedom, democracy and tolerance and have the same value, rights and possibilities.
- Everyone will have freedom of thought and speech, free and unlimited access to: knowledge and information, education, lifelong learning and personal and cultural development.
- Everyone will have, in every phase of life, equally good access to high quality library service under a national library act suited to its purpose and by a well-developed national library policy.
- The Swedish Library Association is an independent, non-profit organisation that operates freely, without any political affiliation. The Association unites and works in support of all types of libraries by disseminating information about libraries and their activities, by initiating public discussion and creating public opinion, by lobbying and by promoting research and development.

The Swedish Library Association:

- enhances the profile of libraries and speaks out about their importance, the prerequisites for libraries and the challenges facing libraries. It advocates for a library act suited to its purpose and for a national library policy;
- follows the developments within different political areas of importance for libraries and proposes measures and actions that would reinforce the activities of libraries;
- sheds light on and argues in favour of the importance of libraries for education, research, democracy, the freedom of information and speech, cultural heritage, reading development, personal and cultural development, and civic information;
- co-operates with related institutions and organisations and exerts influence on decision-makers at different levels;

- produces a leading journal within the professional area (The Swedish Library Journal or Biblioteksbladet, BBL) for discussion of library-related topics and the dissemination of knowledge, trends and current developments;
- monitors and communicates new research and education of relevance to libraries, identifies new fields of study, and draws attention to the need for new research;
- co-operates with different actors and creates contacts between research and education in the field of library and information science and libraries/practitioners;
- provides arenas for discussion, the exchange of views and the active involvement of members, as well as a wide range of seminars and conferences;
- contributes to the development of knowledge of the prerequisites for libraries and the role, mission and quality of libraries through studies performed by the Association and by monitoring and disseminating other studies and surveys, information on good examples, and facts;
- promotes the development of libraries, for example, by providing its institutional members with support for different development measures;
- awards prizes to focus attention on achievements in the field of library and information science, library activities and library development, as well as literature and writing;
- participates in the work involved in maintaining classification, cataloguing and indexing systems, in support of library activities;
- stimulates international co-operation and exchange through collaboration with the Nordic library associations and membership in relevant international organisations, as well as by awarding travel grants to its members.

At the annual general meeting of the Swedish Library Association on 13th May 2009 in Uppsala, the orientation of the Association's activities was established.

Sweden has:

**A national library: the National Library of Sweden
(Kungl. biblioteket).**

290 municipal public libraries with slightly under 1000 branches.

**Around 40 university and university
college libraries.**

**Around 40 government libraries and special
libraries that are open to the general public.**

Around 90 mobile libraries.

**Approximately 3000 staffed and open
school libraries.**

Close to 115 hospital libraries.

**These libraries have holdings of approximately
190 million books, electronic books, newspapers, magazines,
audio books, talking books (DAISY), Braille books, manuscripts,
maps, music recordings, games, movies and more.**



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