



## GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report from the Swedish Library Association

Work shop with the Network for Public  
Library Directors meeting

*How a united library field can tackle the  
challenges of the future*

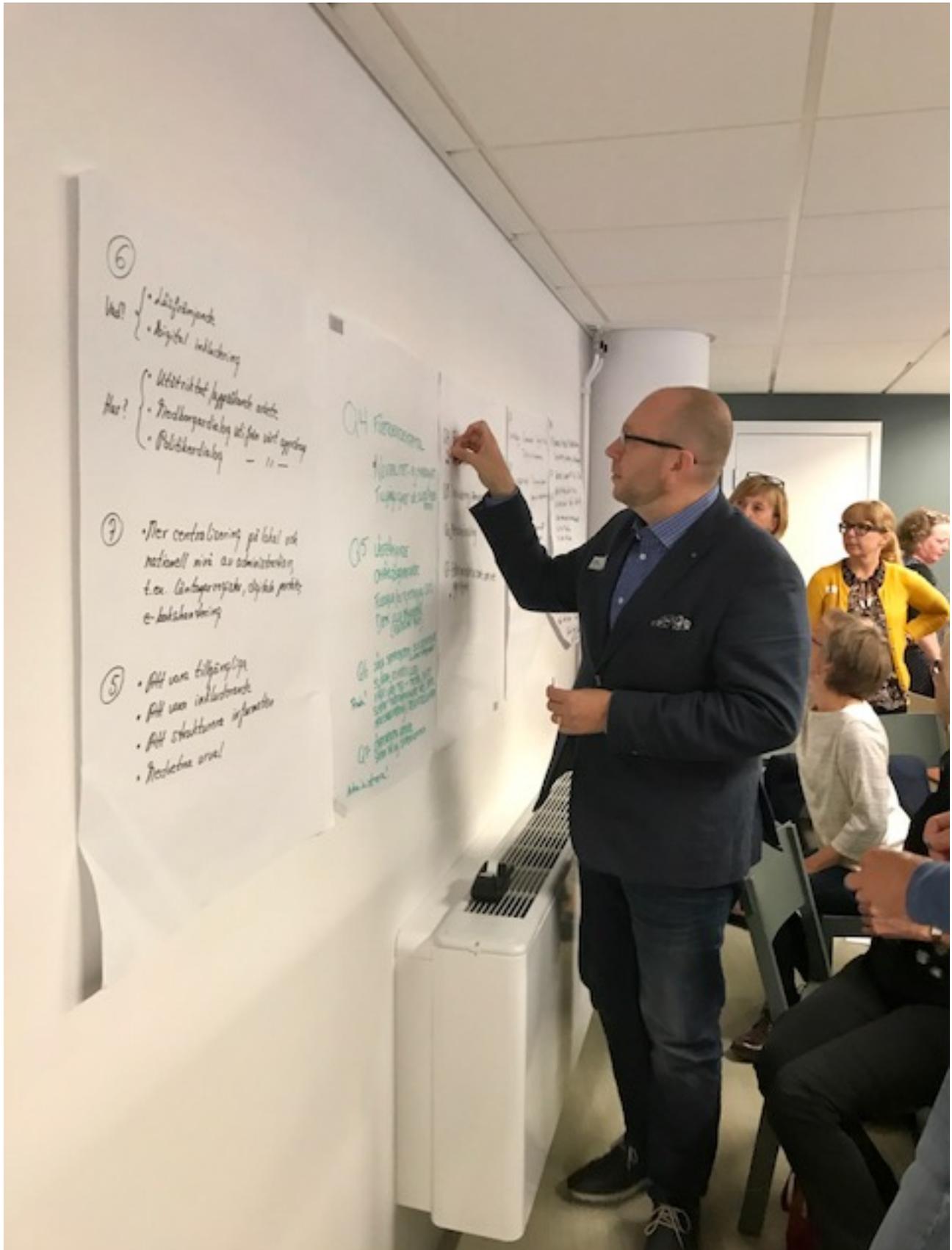
*2017-09-14*



Photos: Jenny Nilsson & Maria Alexiusson







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- Var? {
- Lärlingsjobb
  - Digital inkludering

- Var? {
- Utökat utrymme för utbildning
  - Fördjupad utbildning utöver gymnasiet
  - Fördjupad utbildning

⑦

- Mer centralisering på lokal och nationell nivå av administration, t.ex. löneprocesser, styrka, prövning & behörighet

⑧

- Fått vara tillgängligt
- Fått vara inkluderande
- Fått strukturerat information
- Innehålls avtal

④4 Förtroende

- Hög kvalitet i utbildning
- Tydliga krav

④5 Utbildningsutvärdering

- Utvärdering av utbildningens kvalitet
- Utvärdering av utbildningens innehåll

④6 Utvärdering av utbildningens innehåll

- Utvärdering av utbildningens innehåll
- Utvärdering av utbildningens innehåll

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## Introduction

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017, in Stockholm, Sweden, 35 public library directors participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 789 years of library experience.

There has also been another smaller work shop with librarians from the academic libraries in Sweden, but not arranged by the Swedish Library Association.

The Swedish Library Association has also encouraged members to vote directly through a specific member's mail, a note in the associations magazine Biblioteksbladet and in all available social media; Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## A vision for libraries

The library is a strong performer in the digital world, an enabler and enhancer of digital skills, which provides patrons with access to the Internet, thus contributing to the digital inclusion and literacy. The library is an open, democratic meeting point with free access to knowledge and information, where everyone is free to take part. It's an arena for people to take part in activities and discussions with public citizen services, and a physical place in an increasingly digital world. The library contributes to peace, equality, and democracy through culture, knowledge mediation, media and information literacy, free individual opinion building, and as an arena for inclusion and unity. The library is an important cog in the local community, cooperating with other stakeholders and it is a strong operator in many contexts. The library has a presence in the local community, promoting reading and literacy outside of its physical walls and aims specifically at prioritized audiences. Thanks to governmental decisions and funding, there is a school library at every school.

### The core values of libraries (Q4):

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1. *Democracy*
2. *Free and open meeting place for everyone*
3. *Access to information – free opinion building*
4. *Digitalizing, Literature and literacy*
5. *Neutrality, non-governmental*

#### Comments:

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Libraries are free, open, neutral, and inclusive meeting points which support free opinion building, democracy, digitalizing, literacy and access to literature and information.

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### Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

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1. *Being flexible, adjusting to changes*
2. *Analyzing external environmental trends*
3. *Being inclusive*
4. *Accessibility*
5. *Organize information*

**Comments:**

“Libraries are an open democratic meeting place with free access to knowledge and information, where people of different backgrounds are welcome to share and participate. In the future development it is key to involve even more in the local community.”

**Libraries should do more of (Q6):**

1. *Letting go of control, trying something new, daring to make mistakes*
2. *Developing methodology*
3. *Being present and standing out*
4. *Communicating with politicians and citizens in relation to our commitment*
5. *Marketing – building relationships*

**Comments:**

“The libraries give all people access to the internet, and contribute to everyone's digital participation and inclusion. Libraries need to increase the digital knowledge level and work with digitization in order to let go of technical barriers. In the increasingly digital world the physical meeting place is of even more importance. Integrity and IT security is of increased importance.”

**Libraries should do less of (Q7):**

1. *Actions with little or no impact*
2. *Administrative tasks*
3. *Feeling sorry for ourselves*
4. *Joining every project – better at prioritizing*
5. *Things that our patrons are able to do themselves*

**Comments:**

Libraries would benefit from a more centralized administration, for example concerning patron registers, digital services and e-books.

## Challenges and solutions

### The main challenges to society (Q8):

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1. *Increased segregation*
2. *Increased opinion polarizing*
3. *Migration*
4. *Urbanization*
5. *Economy*

#### Comments:

”The digitization, migration and urbanization challenges the financial situation within the libraries as well as other arenas. Decision makers needs to take into account the benefits from a strong library field“

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### The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

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1. *Libraries face the same challenges as the rest of the society*
2. *Staying relevant, a natural part of the community*
3. *Measuring the libraries’ impact on society, and the benefits to the community*
4. *Increased challenging of Libraries’ core values*
5. *The Librarian becomes a facilitator instead of an information specialist*

#### Comments:

“Local and national strategies connecting to the global vision is of importance. These needs to take into account the different challenges of the local community as well as the library field.”

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## How a united library field can make a difference

### How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

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1. *Secure libraries as democratic and neutral institutions, nationally and globally*
  2. *Joint strategies at all levels empower the work of the libraries*
  3. *A united library field gives increased political impact*
  4. *Central solutions for administration and support*
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## 5. Development of skills and methods

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### Comments:

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“More powerful lobbying is required as well as collaboration on a global level”

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## A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process, in Stockholm, Sweden on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. At the end of 2017, the first results of all the workshops and online discussions will be turned into a *Global Vision Report*, which in turn will be adapted into concrete strategies, processes and work programmes in 2018.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit [globalvision.ifla.org](http://globalvision.ifla.org).

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following [#iflaGlobalVision](https://twitter.com/iflaGlobalVision) and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>.