

Mobile Library Festival 2011

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Turku, Finland



Abstracts

Antero Kyöstiö

The prehistory of the Finnish mobile library

As far as I know the first mobile library began its operation in Finland in the present city of Vantaa in 1913. As “a motor” was a horse. The first mention of mobile library was in the Finnish Library Journal in 1914 when Uno Therman visited book and graphical industry fair in Leipzig in 1914. There he saw pictures of mobile libraries in American department.

In 20s and 30s there were some mentions of mobile libraries in the Finnish Library Journal. Some Finnish librarians made study trip to Denmark and England. So Finnish librarians knew something about the mobile library but the time wasn't ripe for mobiles. Much more important was to build up public library network and to educate both fulltime and part time librarians. In 1939 director of state library office Helle Kannila said: “When we will get the first mobile library to Finland?”

After WWII in 1947 there were in the Finnish parliament a wish bill about the mobile library. In it it suggested to start to test the mobile library. The parliament cultural committee said there was working the library law renewing committee and it surely will deal also mobiles. This committee took a conservative positive attitude to mobiles and said it can test it.

Also directors of the state library office and library inspectors took a conservative positive attitude to mobiles.

In 50s they tested mobile in five municipalities and results of these tests were positive. They showed there were really need for mobiles.

Finally I bring greetings from the first Finnish Mobile Meet in 1971. I had a possibility to take part in it.

Susanne Stökl

Public and Mobile Libraries in Germany

Public and mobile libraries in Germany:

There are approx. 10.900 public libraries in Germany. About 4.000 libraries of these are run by the municipalities and the districts including 96 mobile libraries with 110 book mobiles and 50 music libraries. 3.476 libraries are run by the catholic and 842 by the protestant church and 316 are hospital libraries.

The German public libraries are decentralized. Germany has no standardized public library system. Public libraries in Germany have different classifications, different library softwares, different standards what concerns amount of books and other materials, opening hours, staff, financial support. The majority of the mobile libraries are city mobile libraries. And there are rural mobile libraries in the districts.

Public and mobile libraries in Schleswig-Holstein:

Schleswig-Holstein, the state up in the north of Germany (between Hamburg and Danmark), has a well developed public library system with a library central (Büchereizentrale) providing services. There are mobile libraries in each district of Schleswig-Holstein. This is unique in Germany. The 13 mobile libraries in Schleswig-Holstein are run by the library central and are financed by the state, the district and the municipalities. Additionally there are 2 book mobiles of the Danish minority in Germany and 2 book mobiles of the German minorities in Danmark. And one book mobile is within the city library Flensburg.

In 2007 the mobile libraries started with book mobiles on truck basis (before they were on bus basis). One truck based book mobile (a Volvo built in 2010) can be seen on the Mobile Library Festival in Turku.

Caj Jing

The Joy of Learning Mobile Library

One of the engines of China's rapid growth has been migrant labor. Workers from the countryside have provided the muscle for construction and low-skilled factory in developed cities. These rapidly growing cities have problems in giving those migrants permanent residency status with the result that their families are unable to access most public services. School-age children suffer the most as they don't have enough money to attend public schools. Instead, their parents pay to send them to private schools specially set up for immigrant children. These schools typically are housed in poor facilities, and teachers are paid less than those in the public school system. These schools have no libraries, and public libraries are located far away from the slum areas where these children live.

The KONE Corporation Centennial Foundation, in cooperation with the Beijing Times newspaper, has converted a robust truck into a mobile library, which may well be in this case the first in the history of the People's Republic of China. It will travel to many of the country's major cities, visiting primary schools populated by migrant children. A professional librarian, some trained volunteers and educators/writers will provide an introduction to the pleasures of reading and conduct after-school activities.

This Sino-Finnish joint venture has benefited from the expertise and assistance of numerous Finnish mobile library experts. It will serve as a traveling advertisement for the benefits that mobile libraries can bring to underserved schools. This presentation will discuss the problem being addressed, the partners involved in creating the solution, and the progress that has already been made. The Joy of Learning Mobile Library will enter operation at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

Roberto Soto

The Spanish Mobile Libraries

The first Spanish mobile library was born in 1938; from this date their number has increased until the current 85. There are several types of responsibility, of second and of third government, following terminology IFLA Guidelines, even there is a private mobile library. Exist also differences about their functional dependence, their geographical distribution and their staffing; however most of them have a computerized management.

In Spain some mobile libraries provide special services, for example in beaches, for school, encourage reading, geographical information system about mobile libraries, etc.

About standards, we have Ministry of Culture Guideline and de handbook "The mobile library", the unique handbook about that in Spanish language. This work is completed for de Spanish Professional Mobile Library Association, with her studies, her web side, her blog, her Facebook page and her National Congress of Mobiles Libraries.

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Antoinette van Zanten

A voyage to discovery - Libraries on the move

An initiative which responds to these terms in the province of Zeeland, is the service mobile library: we call it a 'biblio-service-bus'.

The aim is to offer inhabitants of very small villages various basic services which have been lost in these places.

For people living in a rural area it is a large problem to gain access to services no longer available in their own village. The service mobile library is the best solution for this.

How?

The mobile library already offers proper library services on the bus. Zeeland Library, which provides for the bus service, intends to propose additional ways of service:

- * offering products no longer available in the village, like a cash dispenser, the sale of post stamps, tickets for public transport, or delivery of medicine;
- * the possibility to retrieve cash money, facilities to charge cash cards, selling telephone cards;
- * offering broad information about various local organisations on an advertising column by means of broadband technology, which is usually not accessible at home: subjects like institutions of social care, government, politics, public transport, work, education, cultural events, public security, and of course information proper to library services, all of these come into consideration.

Since developing the successfully project of the Biblio-service bus we have now developed a new Biblio-service bus for school in small villages, the ColumBus which you can visit here.

The Columbus is based on the idea of innovation of the concept of mobile library with a broad content with input of a large number of public and private partners.

The new focus is to offer small schools in villages broad information to support the subjects taught at school by themes. Themes which are proposed by the teachers and not invented by ourselves! Themes are proposed in education materials of other organisations, in digital forms, in content on our Microsoft Surface.

Also media awareness is an important item.

Maria Vedenyapina

Mobile Libraries in Russia

Today Russian libraries are facing new goals and trends. They have to move faster to build a new model of library as information center. But until today there are still many remote and isolated rural areas in Russia without adequate transportation where people do not have access to networked information and have to travel for hours to visit the library.

The new project of the Pushkin Library Foundation has a strong focus on providing equal access to on-line information, library and electronic services to every citizen of the Russian Federation. Its main idea is the development of library services based on mobile libraries all over Russia.

The first Mobile Complex of Information and Library Services (*KIBO - in Russian*) was created in 2009 by the Pushkin Library Foundation within the Federal target program «Culture of Russia 2006-2011» operated by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

The KIBO is the first Russian sample of the mobile library of the new generation. KIBO is a specially equipped vehicle which brings library services to faraway rural regions and settlements, which don't have libraries. It is distinguished by the maximum technical equipment and new possibilities for the readers: modern computers, Internet connection from any point of the Russian Federation via the mobile satellite Internet platform, digital information and multimedia resources, the special elevating device for the disabled people. The library fund includes more than 1000 various books and 200 multimedia. Readers can also order books from the central libraries.

This initiative has enormous potential all across Russia. Today 15 KIBO are operating in different Russian regions as pilot projects. They are used to solve various social problems for the local communities. Russian libraries seek out new partnership across library professionals all over the world to research modern mobile library ideas and development of the up-to-date mobile library services. For this reason, the large delegation of Russian librarians will take part in the Mobile Library Festival in Turku this year. One of the KIBO – Russian mobile library, will be demonstrated during the Festival. We hope that it will become a worthy member of the Mobile Library international team!

Julia Abramova

The Media Bus Project in St. Petersburg

The project to be discussed, “The Media Bus Project”, was developed within the frame of Managerial Skills Improvement and Human Resource Enhancement Program for the Cultural Institutions of St. Petersburg, organized for managers of cultural institutions, which I participated in.

The project is intended for people residing in the places lacking stationary libraries and in distant newly build city districts, for people with limited physical ability, retired and every one, who has no sufficient time to visit district library.

According to the statistical data of reports provided by St. Petersburg Central Library Systems there are 412000 inhabitants for 10 libraries in one district of St. Petersburg (Primorsky district) for the year 2009 (10 more libraries needed). Unevenness of libraries' distribution among districts resulted in the absence of libraries in some districts, in separate parts thereof or within total district, consequently people inhabiting these districts lack possibilities to receive library and information services as well as information and legal services.

Owing to the establishment of multimedia mobile system we will be able to provide relevant city inhabitants with the information needed for them, will be able to submit new books, fresh newspapers, periodic editions, to promptly provide legal information and references, number of services etc.

It is supposed to equip Bibliobus with all the latest necessary technical means, high speed Internet, up-

to-date multimedia equipment to conduct cultural public events at open air, especial hoist for people with limited physical ability, mobile folding furniture, mobile sunshades.

Later on Bibliobus will include additional services, such as lectures, meetings with authors, with literature specialists and book activists; courses on how to use computers and Internet for older generation; arrangement of Kids' corner for young mothers with children; library and information service establishment for orphanages and nursing homes; sightseeing tours for orphans from orphanages etc. Service coverage area will expand, number of bus stops will increase, as well as the time of bus parking sometimes, upon financial ability the number of Bibliobuses will increase.

Anders Gistorp:

The Mobile libraries in Falkenberg : The process of creating something new

Although we had started the mental process a couple of years earlier, in 2005 we started the actual work to replace our old vehicle (from 1991) with new ones. In a process which emphasised two words - **flexibility** and **accessibility** - we came up with a solution that was totally new in Sweden.

Taken into service in 2007 and 2008 our two new vehicles represent two technical platforms that hitherto had not been used in Sweden: the low-floor bus, originally developed to give service in areas where the need for accessibility is larger, and a library on a lorry chassis which gives a new form of flexibility in construction and economy.

However, it was the process involving the whole staff that made this investment an important learning process, forcing us to view our operations from a new angle and defining our work with new words. In our department we are five librarians, all with a driver's licence for a heavy lorry so we can all look at all the aspects of the operations together.

Ian Stringer

Zen and the art of mobile library maintenance

The title is copied from the book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Pirsig, itself a play on the title of the book *Zen in the Art of Archery* by Eugen Herrige. Pirsig says that, despite its title, "it should in no way be associated with that great body of factual information relating to orthodox Zen Buddhist practice. I add the same disclaimer to my presentation.

In ZAMM, Pirsig explores the meaning and concept of quality, a term he deems to be indefinable. Pirsig's thesis is that to truly experience quality one must both embrace and apply it, as it best fits the requirements of the situation. According to Pirsig, such an approach would avoid a great deal of frustration and dissatisfaction common to modern life.

In the book, he describes the "Romantic" approach to life of his friend John Sutherland, who chooses not to learn how to maintain his expensive new motorcycle. John simply hopes for the best with his bike, and when problems do occur he often becomes frustrated, and is forced to rely on others to repair it. In contrast, the "classical" Narrator has an older motorcycle which he is usually able to diagnose and repair himself, through the use of rational problem solving skills.

I will explore Mobile Library Maintenance in its broadest sense making sure you reach quality by using the second form of working.

To ensure you have a good idea what to do I will refer to my 'mobile library repair manual' the IFLA Mobile Library Guidelines.

Using the guidelines and illustrations of best practice from the UK I will assemble a hypothetical ‘Supermobile’ and show the best mobile library working practice.

Nuno Marçal

“50 years travelling throughout the lands and people of Portugal”

Summary – The wanderings of Mobile Libraries in Portugal, an influence in the promotion of books, reading, knowledge and something... more

Describing – Mobile Libraries/Bibliomóvel Proença-a-Nova/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Although there are some older records attesting the existence of mobile libraries in Portugal (not motorized), it was only in 1958 that Branquinho da Fonseca created one of Portugal’s main structures of Public Reading (Neves, 2005), with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Throughout all these years the Mobile Libraries of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation were important cultural and educational landmarks, in a time where illiteracy was promoted by an over controlling government. The mobile library service, along with the affections and the exchange of information it involved, travelled to the most hidden and inaccessible places of Portugal. We still find remains of its influence in the lives of thousands of former users, visitors and friends who recall with nostalgia and a feeling of eternal gratitude the old bookmobiles. Thanks to this service, some people have accessed books for the first time, adopting reading habits that turned them into better and more elucidated citizens (Melo, 2004). In 2002, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation decided to put an end to this noble project, delivering this responsibility to the cities where the fixed libraries were installed. The collections were absorbed by the local libraries. As to the original service, some cities interpreting the affectionate bond between the mobile library service and the populations, and respecting its importance, have put an effort into its modernization and development and have kept it until the present day; in some cases even the vehicles were preserved.

Recently, Proença-a-Nova city hall together with Sobreira Formosa’s Santa Casa de Misericórdia, have decided to present a project to PROGRIDE - a programme oriented to face poverty and social exclusion. This project included two vehicles: a mobile library and an healthcare mobile unit.

The first trip of the bookmobile took place on the 26th of July, 2006.

Since then, the initial route - 22 villages, 3 primary schools and 3 kindergartens – has suffered some changes in order to adapt itself to the demands and interests of the population and to new social realities.

At this moment there are 67 mobile libraries that cover the entire territory with its roads, lands and people; carrying its human, bibliographical and sentimental resources.

The Mobile Libraries have played an important role, reducing the differences concerning access to books and reading, a result of the social and geographic isolation of some populations. Today, and certainly in the future, they will continue their important mission, promoting access to knowledge and generosity.

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Tiina Viik

No man is an island

-as far as there is a library boat available.

The library boat made it's very first tour in Turunmaa archipelago in Western Finland 35 years ago.

This was summer -75 and now our library boat has been serving the inhabitants of small islands around Parainen ever since. It is already the third generation growing up with library boat services. The people living in archipelago has had a great interest in reading and it has been handed down from generation to generation.