Science, technology and library work
Trends and milestones

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A Dream in 1973: Information searches in the bedroom

"I dream about the day, when I have a connection to the best international databases and I can do information searches in my bedroom!"

_Elin Törnudd_

Chief Librarian of the Helsinki University of Technology Library (1968-91)
Ideas were born – and became true by forerunners

- Many subject databases and information systems have their roots in scientific societies and in everyday work of researchers – although later they have been developed on commercial bases
- Those fields of sciences that have economic relevance and/or have societal impact have always been in the forefront of developing library and information systems
- In these fields the rapid diffuse of scientific information is important
- Examples: Chemical Abstracts, Medline
In the wake of the forerunners come the followers

- Social sciences and humanities have built their databases later – when they have a real need of organized and current scientific information
- From printed bibliographies to databases
- Sometimes the ideas to collect and organize information come from scientists and scientific societies, but databases are often founded and funded by administrative or commercial organisations
From bibliographies to databases to social media...

- Printed abstract and index journals and bibliographies
- Databases off-line
- Searches via satellites
- Online databases and searches by professionals
- CD-ROM databases
- Internet and online databases again – now searches available for everyone
- Open Access publications
- Social media and interaction
Scientists and changing working space

- From pen to typewriter to computer
- Computer as an office
  - Information searches
  - Information analysis
  - Reading e-books and e-journals
  - Writing research report
  - Communicating and networking
- All the time online
External claims to researchers

- Research funding and sponsors
- Visibility in science and society
- Research data management
- Open Access and openness in general
- Publish or perish?
- Research evaluation in many ways
  - Quantitative
  - Qualitative
External claims to librarians

- Knowledge of research work
- Expertise in research work
- Scientific education -> doctoral studies
  - To know, what research work really is
  - To know, how and why to collect, manage and use research data
  - To know, which are the best journals and the best publishers
  - To know, how to evaluate research
  - To encourage researchers!
The mission of librarians and information specialists

- In an academic library we – librarians and information specialists - support researchers to do better research, to advance science, to do better world.
- Development of science and technology has its impact also to libraries.
- Interaction and communication.
- Technological development gives possibilities to put into action our ideas and dreams.
In 2014 Elin’s dream has come true: Information searches – and the whole Internet – in the bedroom, livingroom, kitchen, bus, train, cafe, restaurant, beach...

"It was really amazing that when I was on a longer sickleave, I could do information searches with laptop in my bedroom! I also could send email, follow a live session of a scientific seminar, send there comments and questions - and get answers. I also stared TV and read newspapers on the screen."

"When I was travelling, I had my iPad with me. WiFi was available in a railway station, and I could do a search in the database and buy cheaper train tickets than in the ticket office nearby."