

**Borgmester Pia Allerslevs tale i anledning af Danmarks Biblioteksforening
20th EBLIDA - NAPLE conference – en velkomst ved konferencen Democracy
Development in a New Media Environment på IDA mødecenter**

[Talesituation: Det foregår i IDA Mødecenter, Kalvebod Brygge 31-33. Du er på som en del af åbningen, dvs. kl. 9.40 til ca.10 (20 minutter). De venter omkring 125 deltagere fra 31 lande. Biblioteksekspertter fra både folke- og forskningsbiblioteker, politikere, forlæggere og internationale copyright-folk samt medlem af EU-parlamentet, Tarja Cronberg, og den berømte forfatter og ofte kontroversielle blogger Cory Doctorow.]

Ladies and Gentlemen - dear guests and participants of this 20th EBLIDA - NAPLE conference – my name is Pia Allerslev and I am the Mayor of Culture and Leisure here in Copenhagen. On behalf of the Copenhagen City Council I welcome you all.

It is a great pleasure and honour for us – to be the hosting city of your conference.

Here in Copenhagen we have 20 public libraries - and they are all essential cultural institutions, because they are used as open and democratic meeting places - in all the different parts of our city.

Each one of them is important as public institutions which bring knowledge; entertainment and learning to our citizens.

I believe that our libraries make Copenhagen stronger - and a better place to live.

We constantly try to develop new ways of being an open, creative and attractive city – that is what we are working on – that is our goal.

As an example I can tell you that we are now developing initiatives that are making it possible for our citizens to use our libraries - when **they** want to – not just during ordinary opening hours.

We are giving them the key to their library - and making it possible for them to come and go - in some new extended library opening hours - from 8 am to 10 pm.

It is already in function and the vision is that each area of our city should have at least one library with long opening hours.

Actually it's not a real key – in this digitized world, it is just a code that lets them open the door to the library – also when there are no librarians at work.

Our libraries here in Copenhagen are trying hard to develop and create new ways of ensuring attractive services - in all the new media environments.

And they are absorbing all the best new technology and tendencies that are relevant - all because the new possibilities are becoming increasingly useful for a future library.

Being more and more digitized in new media environments is off course a challenge – for both the users and the libraries.

We might have to educate some of our costumers first – if we want them to be capable of using all the new self service and online solutions.

We will for sure have to help the 20 percent of the population who possess either very rudimentary IT qualifications or none at all.

We will have to act democratic – and open some doors - to let them in and be a part of the new library.

It could be help to download an e-book or simply using our online reservation services – or it could be starting up a new tablet that they have just bought.

The 100 % digital library is an application for tablets where we offer the very best of online resources. They may be used day and night - independent of place and circumstances. The aim is to be there online for our customers in a dynamic, inviting and inspiring way.

But we have also begun working on our libraries – so that all the digital possibilities will be reflected in the physical library – we are experimenting in establishing new digital areas - in-between all the other things such as books.

As a politician I want the best access to all kind of information, whenever you go to a public library here in Copenhagen – and I hope that your conference will help us in getting better doing that.

I really hope that this 20th Jubilee Conference will help us make better libraries - because the role for our libraries and all their current e-challenges is most important to find out and to discuss.

And before I stop - I want to thank the Danish Library Association who together with EBLIDA – and the Danish Agency for Culture - and supported by the other Danish library organizations and members of the Library Umbrella in Denmark - have organized and made this conference possible.

I do know it takes hours of planning, working, and networking to make a conference like this.

I hope you all have some good and interesting days, and that you also take the opportunity to enjoy what wonderful Copenhagen has to offer its visitors.

If I may come with a suggestion – you could visit the Copenhagen Main Library.

I wish you a pleasant conference - with lots of good debates and constructive new initiatives for the benefit of our libraries – and off course all the citizens and users. After all – it's their libraries.

Thank you for your time and attention.