

Call for Papers

Thematic issue: Public libraries in times of political turmoil

Public libraries appeared, developed, and became institutionalized in an era when liberal democracy gained ground and became formalized in Europe and North America. Today, the public library is one out of many institutions supporting the democratic form of government. The notion of democracy, the way it is expressed in for example Nordic library acts, can be interpreted in a variety of ways. A widespread understanding comprises the idea that democracy unites the rights of the individual and the will of the majority. However, the support for this idea has declined lately – not least among young people. In the wake of right wing and populist movements in the US and Europe, the need to discuss citizen participation, democratic values, and human rights is accentuated.

For whom are societal institutions for, how is citizenship interpreted and, ultimately, what kind of democracy are the institutions supposed to support and act under? In this context, the public library constitutes an object of study in itself, but it also serves as an empirical example through which political tendencies of general societal importance can be captured.

When the definition of democracy and the understanding of what constitutes a society is being renegotiated and reinterpreted, the public library's mission is placed in a new context. How is the public library's mission, to support the development of a democratic society, affected when democracy is contested? What are the consequences for public librarianship, and what is the role of research in library and information studies on public libraries, in this time of political turmoil?

The Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies, NJLIS, now welcomes submissions offering empirical, theoretical and/or historical perspectives related to public libraries in times of political turmoil and research on public libraries in times of political turmoil. Themes of interest include, but are not restricted to:

- Perceptions of the public library's democratic function
- The roles of public libraries in society
- Library legislation and regulation
- Relations between public libraries and other societal institutions and actors
- Relations between public libraries and local actors (e.g., NGO:s, trade and industry)
- Collection development and management
- Cultural and artistic activities (programming) in public libraries
- Librarians as public servants
- Experiences of public librarians
- Maneuvering space for public librarianship
- The arm's length principle in public libraries
- Freedom of expression and public libraries
- Active citizenship and public libraries
- User engagement, participation, and inclusion in public libraries
- Cultural policy and public libraries

Ideologies and public libraries

Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies, NJLIS, is a scholarly peer reviewed open access journal, covering scientific issues and current trends in Library and Information Studies. Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies publishes Nordic and international peer reviewed LIS articles and reviews of significant LIS literature. The editorial committee consists of representatives from LIS departments in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The role of editor rotates annually between the members of the editorial committee. The journal is published by University of Copenhagen's online platform tidsskrift.dk.

This is a call for papers to the journal's fifth issue, which is a theme issue due to be published in June 2022. Deadline for full papers: February 28, 2022.

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General guidelines

Articles submitted to NJLIS should not be submitted to or published in other journals.

Submissions

Manuscripts should be submitted via the website <https://tidsskrift.dk/njlis/about/submissions>

Length

The maximum length for articles is 8000 words.

Language

Texts in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, or English are accepted.

References

Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies adheres to the latest version of the APA (American Psychological Association) reference style.

Peer Review Process

Submitted articles are subject to double-blind peer-review. The editor decides on publishing after the review process. Papers may be rejected directly by the editor if judged to be out of scope, deemed as sub-standard or not adhering to the author guidelines.

Open Access Policy

The journal provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.