

Viclink Tour
Great Public Libraries of the World
28 September – 17 October 2008

Sweden Photos

Album by tour participant
Debra Rosenfeldt
Manager, Public Libraries
State Library of Victoria

The tour group

Nine from Victorian libraries:

- Camille Cullinan - Swan Hill Library Service
- Beck Henshall - Frankston Library Service
- Chris Kelly - Brimbank Library Service
- Lynette Lewis - Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Chris Mackenzie (leader) - Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Alix Massina - State Library of Victoria
- John Murrell - West Gippsland Regional Library ...

- Debra Rosenfeldt - State Library of Victoria
- Karen Ward-Smith - Greater Dandenong Library Service

Six others:

- Mandy Gatliff - Frankston Council, Vic
- Sharan Harvey - Brisbane City Libraries, Qld
- Sharon Robertson - Brisbane City Libraries, Qld
- Jane Cowell - AEC Group, Qld
- Geoff Strempel - State Library of South Australia, SA
- Patricia Genat - Australian Library Supply, SA

The itinerary – six countries and 20+ libraries in 20 days

Singapore:

- National Library
- Library @ Esplanade
- Bishan Public Library

Finland:

- Sello Public Library
- The Royal Library
- The Meeting Place
- Library 10

Sweden:

- Comics Library
- Children's Library
- Youth Library
- International Library
- Kista Public Library
- Asplund Public Library
- Malmo Public Library ...

Denmark:

- The Black Diamond
- Vanlose Public Library
- The Smart City and its Libraries - Conference

Hong Kong:

- Ma On Shan Public Library
- City Hall Public Library
- Hong Kong Public Library

The Netherlands:

- Amsterdam Public Library
- DOK Library Concept Center – Delft

SWEDEN

4-6 October 2008



The tour group at Stockholm Airport. From left to right: John Murrell, Sharan Harvey, Patricia Genat, Geoff Stempel, Lynette Lewis, Sharon Robertson, Alix Massina, Chris Mackenzie, Chris Kelly, Mandy Gatliff, Karen Ward-Smith, Camille Cullinan, Beck Henshall, Jane Cowell (Debra Rosenfeldt was taking the picture).

Comics Library - Stockholm



The tour group made a fleeting visit to Stockholm's Comics Library, a small shopfront library in the heart of the city, exceptionally busy on a Saturday afternoon. This library appeals especially to young adults. It stocks both comics and graphic novels. The Comics Library is part of the Stockholm City Library service.



Lime green is the colour of choice in the Comics Library, even for the book trolley that resembles a motor scooter.



The main customer service desk glows – and it looks like a space ship.

International Library - Stockholm

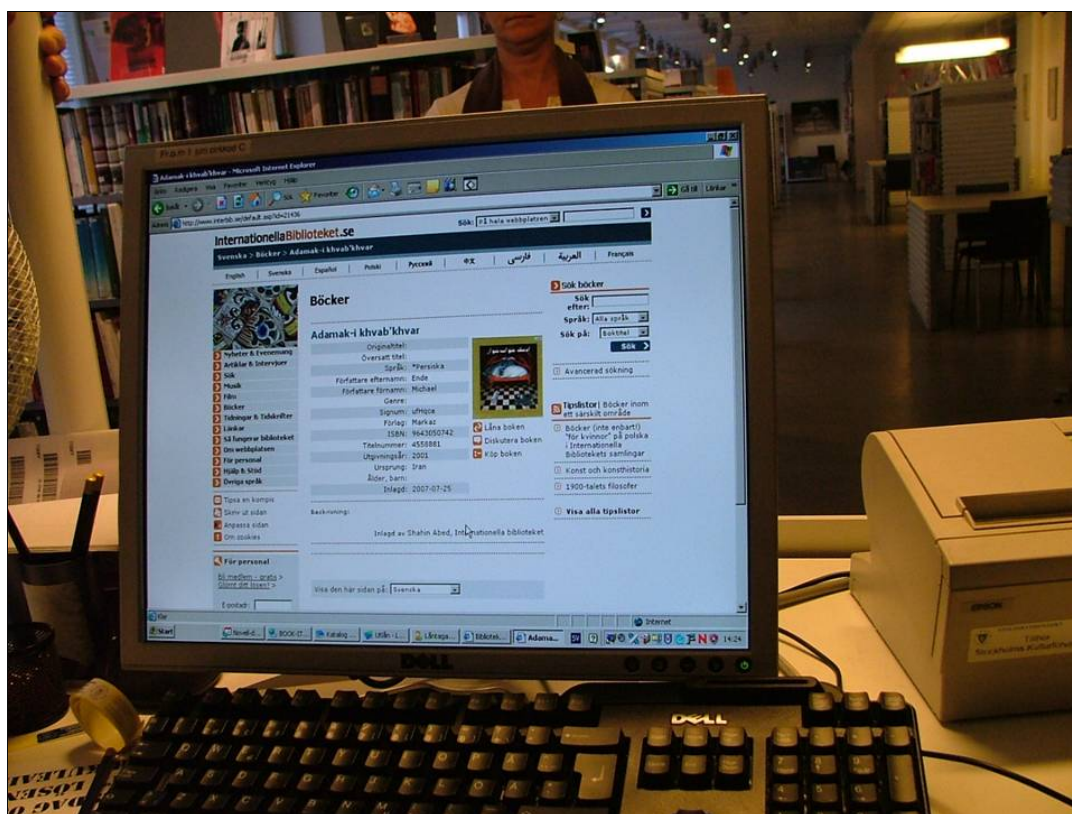


Stockholm's International Library contains over 200,000 books in more than 100 languages. Visitors come from all over Sweden, but for those who can't come to the library itself, it's resources can be accessed through their local libraries. The International Library is part of the Stockholm City Library and is located next door to the main branch, the famous Asplund Library.



The International Library's 32 staff speak a total of 27 languages, so most customers can usually find someone on the staff with whom they can converse in their own language.





All items in the International Library's catalogue can be searched in Swedish or the language in which they are written.

The Children's Room - Stockholm



The Children's Room is dedicated to 0-11 year olds and is a branch of the Stockholm City Library.



The Children's Room is a 600sq m facility located in the heart of Stockholm, on the top floor of the Kulturhuset (Culture House). Such is its popularity (300,000 visitors per year) that the library has had to install a traffic light in the window. When the light displays red, customers know that the library is full and they will have to either wait to come in or come back at another time.



The Children's Room has sections for three age groups. The Yellow Room is for 0-3 year olds.



The Yellow Room for 0-3 year olds.



The Brown Room is for 4-7 year olds. It's an extraordinary place for playing, exploring and reading, built like an adventure playground with books.



Children will find cupboards full of surprises and cubby holes for reading in the Brown Room.



The signage in the Brown Room is in pictures rather than words (eg: books about other countries are under the beautifully back-lit pictures of flags).









The White Room is for 8-11 year olds. Its collections include novels, magazines, cartoons, maps and encyclopaedias.



Behind the blue doors is the circular storytime room. The ceiling features an exact representation of the constellations in the northern hemisphere's night sky.



Another example of a round-ish shelving unit.



Inside the 'round' shelving unit there is a private space for reading.





Behind the spaces dedicated to books are two huge workshop areas, where arts and crafts activities are conducted daily.



A workshop space in The Children's Room.



Another workshop space in The Children's Room – featuring an aquarium full of piranha.

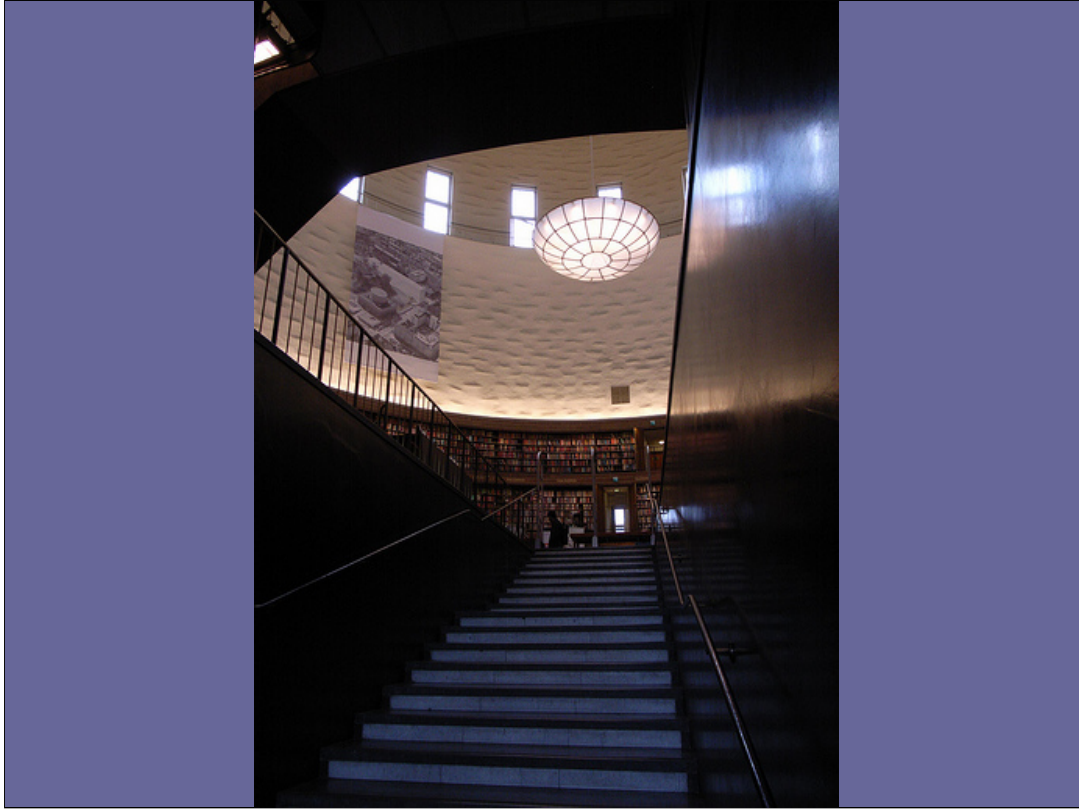


The customer service desk in The Children's Room.

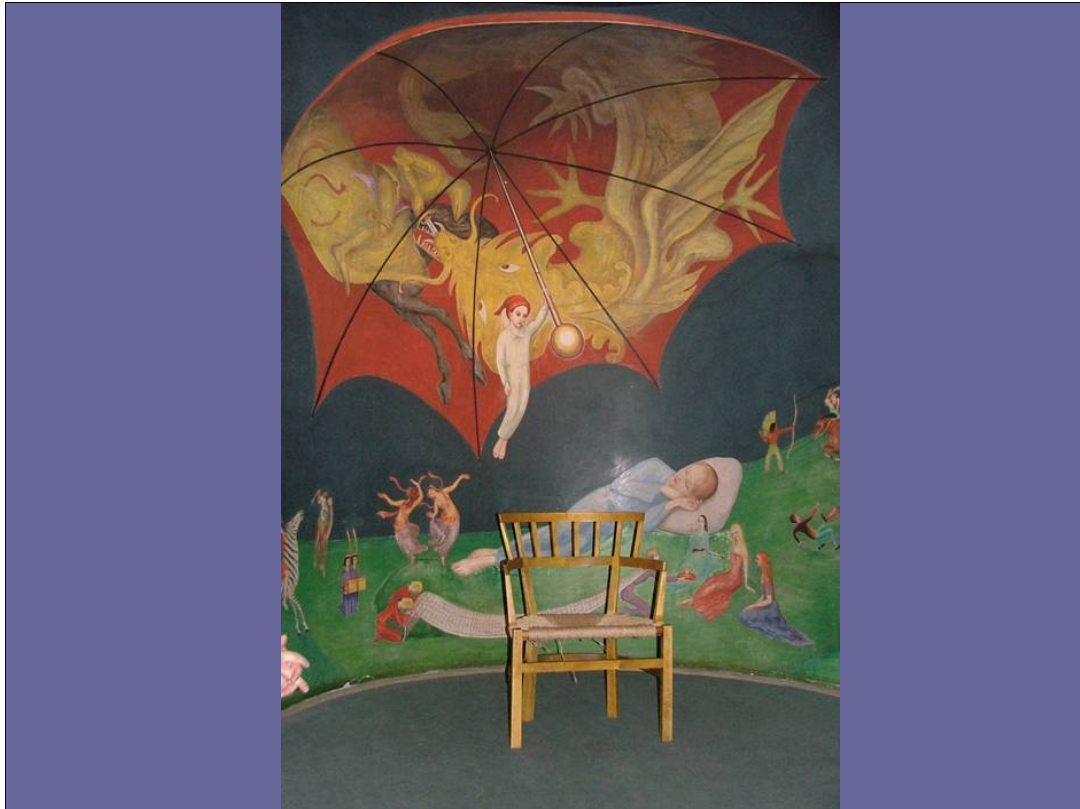
Asplund Library - Stockholm



The Asplund Library is the main library of the Stockholm City Library. Opened in 1928, it is named for its architect. Although not well designed for the functions of a modern library service, it is one of the most beloved buildings in Stockholm. The library service is hopeful of being able to build a huge modern glass extension at the rear of the Asplund Library.



Entry to the central hall of the Asplund Library is via a staircase resembling a dramatic dark tunnel.



The children's area of Asplund Library has a small round room for storytime featuring a beautiful painting by a well-known Swedish artist.



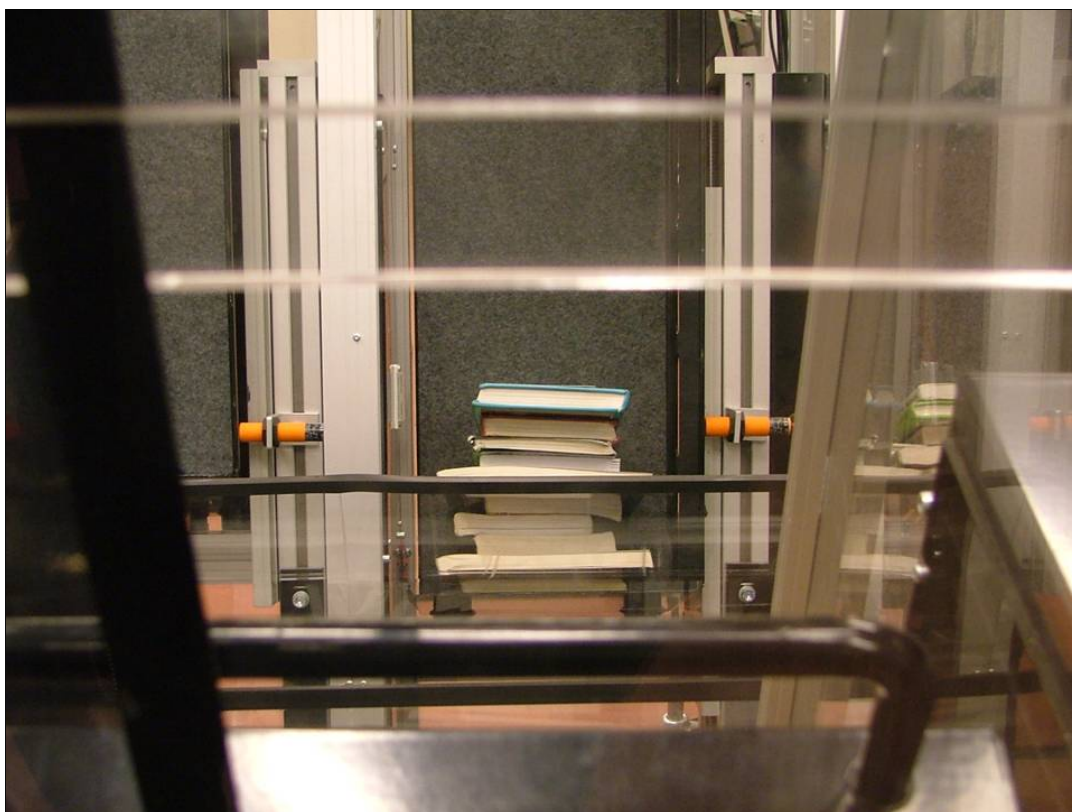
One of the reading rooms in Asplund Library



Tour leader, Chris Mackenzie, was delighted to find an old card catalogue behind the scenes in Asplund Library.



The latest technologies are utilised for automated check-in and sorting of returned loaned items at Asplund Library.



One of the 'sorting bins' at Asplund Library.

Kista Library - Stockholm



Kista Library is a fairly typical branch of the Stockholm City Library located on the outskirts of the city (entry beneath the blue awning in lower left corner of the photo). Kista is the headquarters for many IT companies (eg: Ericsson and Microsoft) in Sweden; it's a university town and has a high refugee population.



A sunny spot in Kista Library; the Swedish chairs are both comfortable and stylish.



Entry to Kista Library.



The linoleum tiles on the floor add to the light and easy feel of Kista Library.



The children's area in Kista Library. Note the curved wall and the Moomintroll chair. Moomintrolls are a favourite Scandinavian children's book character.





There are five study rooms in Kista Library that can be booked for extended periods. Users have access to these rooms 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



There was a lot of technology available in Kista Library – note the heavy duty chains securing the screens to the desks.



Yellow paint and lighting are used to good effect on and around the book shelves in Kista Library.



SWEDEN
10 October 2008

Malmo Library - Sweden



Malmo is a Swedish port city of about 300,000 people located several hundred kilometres south of Stockholm, but only a 45 minute drive from Copenhagen in Denmark. The Malmo Library is regarded as one of the most beautiful public libraries in the world. It is actually comprised of three buildings – The Calendar of Light (above) and The Rotunda, both opened in 1997, and The Castle, opened in 1901. The three buildings provide approximately 9,000 sq m of public space.



The Castle is a red brick building, complete with turrets.



The Rotunda links The Castle and The Calendar of Light and is the main entry point to the Malmo Library.



Looking down on the entrance to the Malmö Library. The foyer and the adjacent magazine/newspaper room and café open very early in the morning, well before the library proper opens, providing a range of services to people on their way to work. In the foyer customers can use the internet or choose and borrow books from a small selection on display. They can grab a coffee/breakfast from the adjacent café, or catch-up with the news in the nearby magazine/newspaper room. Aside from offering an extended service to customers, the foyer internet access and book displays keep this large area from feeling intimidating. It's friendly and lively.



Customer self service check-out stations in the foyer of Malmo Library.



Malmo Library café, opening off the foyer.



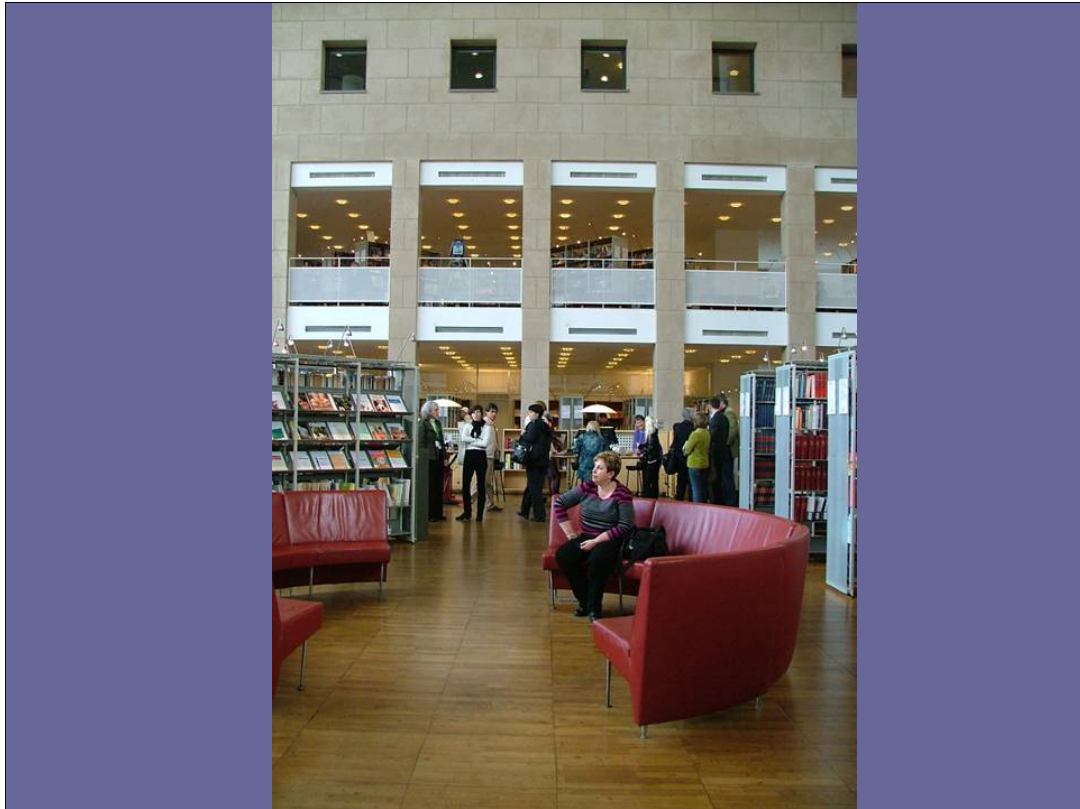
Stylish seating and wooden floors contribute to the elegance of the magazine/newspaper room.



The range of magazines is enormous. The spot lighting above the shelving is a distinctive feature of Malmo Library.



Views of the interior of the awe inspiring Calendar of Light, which houses Malmö Library's non-fiction collection. As well as being architecturally magnificent it is an easy space to use and navigate.







Love the wooden floor – unlikely to be found in a modern Australian library. The two desks are the reference/information desks. Even the tops of the shelves are designed to let in the light in the Calendar of Light.



Study tables in the Calendar of Light.



Casual seating area in the Calendar of Light. Again, incredibly stylish and comfortable seating. And what a fabulous view.



Even the trolleys are stylish in Malmo Library.



The upper walkway from the new Calendar of Light building to the original library building, The Castle.



The main reference/information desk at the entrance to The Castle. The service is 'stand up', the customer and the library staff member working side by side. The desk area does not have the same clean lines and elegance as the rest of the library.



The fiction collection is spread over two floors and in a number of rooms in The Castle, the oldest part of the library. Opened in 1901, it was refurbished in 1999. One of the key aims of the refurbishment was to let in the light, achieved in the main fiction reading room by installing a glass roof. This room is stunning. However, the refurbishment did not change The Castle significantly structurally, so that it still functions as more of a traditional library divided into separate reading rooms, in contrast to the 'open plan' of the Calendar of Light.



The main body of the fiction collection. Note the change in shelving from the mesh and steel used in the new part of the library (the Calendar of Light) to the more traditional material of wood. However, the distinctive light fittings fixed to the shelves are uniform throughout the library.



More of the fiction collection in Malmo Library. In the lower levels of The Castle the beautiful wooden floors are replaced with linoleum.



As always in the Scandinavian libraries, Malmo has a very large audio visual collection.



The piano – another standard feature in Scandinavian libraries. Music and culture in general play a more important role in life than we generally see in much of Australia.



Ground floor passage into the children's and young adult area of Malmo Library.



A special cloak room for children.



There are several reading rooms in the children's and young adult area, which is the least refurbished area of Malmo Library. This mural and the colourful seating give this 'traditional' room a lift.



This is the pre-school picture book area in Malmo Library. The colours are warm and inviting. Some tour group members were very enchanted by the little 'boats' that children could snuggle into to read their books.



An old-fashioned classroom blackboard in the children's picture book areas still appears to get plenty of use.



More curved shelving. The tour group saw a lot of this, which we don't see in Australia. There is a 'room' inside this rather lovely wall of books.



The young adult area – plain, very casual, but lifted by the fabulous chairs..