Denmark

# COUNTRY REPORT – DENMARK

By

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## Overview

This report covers the three libraries of the **Danish Institute for Fisheries Research** (DIFRES) (situated in Charlottenlund, Lyngby and Silkeborg), the **North Sea Centre Library** (situated in Hirtshals), and the library of the **National Environmental Research Institute** (NERI) - mainly the Departments of Lake and Estuarine Ecology and Streams and Riparian Areas (situated in Silkeborg).

Today the typical librarian's work tends to move to jobs including general information dissemination *via*, for instance, webpages on internet/intranet. Thus, as librarians we are getting accustomed to many new aspects of the electronic world. We have, of course, searched on-line for information in databases for several years but are now additionally involved in the world of electronic journals, electronic publishing, webpages and information management in a broader perspective.

*For some of us, the* **intranet** *and* **webpages** *have become facets of our daily work*, and we are quite happy with it and find it natural to solve the tasks involved - it is simply information management *via* a new medium.

In general, the current trend in Denmark moves towards the formation of **'library consortia'**, i.e. a number of libraries decide to co-operate to obtain full text access to electronic journals from various scientific publishers. Another area of co-operation is access to a **gateway** to a database containing full text journals and other subject-specific information.

Thanks to the support from the Danish Government, we have at least for a trial period, been able to keep pace with the electronic development and obtain electronic full text access to journals without additional expense. What will happen when the trial period ends in about two years, nobody knows. However, when you as a professional or a scientist have become used to being able to pull down desired information in less than no time, it will be a serious step backwards if electronic access is discontinued - with or without governmental support. Ultimately, it is a political decision whether or not to support (more or less) free access to scientific electronic information for university and governmental research. It will be quite interesting to see at which price and access level the publishers will agree.

**Small and medium sized libraries** are co-operating to obtain cheaper prices. During the autumn of 1999, the five libraries covered by this report attempted to initiate a co-operation with a number of other small-sized libraries within the food technology, agriculture and fisheries sectors. The purpose was to establish a joint gateway to electronic journals. However, owing to very different information needs and technical information levels the attempt did not succeed.

**Staff/Library Situation**

At the **North Sea Centre Library, Kurt Prentow** replaced Søren Elle on 1 May 1999. One of the main partners of this library, DIFTA, closed on 1 April 2000 as a consequence of financial difficulties. Part of DIFTA is currently being reconstructed. The library continues to function as a joint library to institutions (including the Hirtshals branch of DIFRES) and companies situated at the North Sea Centre.

**NERI** consists of three libraries – two situated in the western part (among these the Silkeborg library) and one in the eastern part of Denmark. The libraries cover most environmental subjects.

At the eastern NERI library, a possible integration with the library (environmental subjects) placed at the same locality is being closely examined. It is not yet known to what extent such an integration will influence the cooperation between the three libraries. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the uncertain future one of the librarians has already found a new job.