Session 3: Examples of good practice for the use of information and communication technologies

Bo Öhrström

Denmark’s Electronic Research Library - Supporting Research and Education in Denmark

The Danish Electronic Research Library (DEF in Danish) is the realisation of a vision of a single virtual research library focused on the need for easy access to scientific information for researchers and students in Denmark. DEF is a large government funded project, which over a 5 year period spends 200 million Danish Kroner (27 million Euro) in order to build a national virtual research library in Denmark. The project aims to help the transition from purely paper-based services to electronic services in the library sector and focus on organisational changes as well. The project is a result of close co-operation between originally three ministries, and it is now in the end of the final project for the year 2002.

DEF supports research and education in Denmark by being an important part of the Danish research infrastructure. This part of the Danish research infrastructure depends on the execution of three main activities in the DEF project, where DEF:

* catalyses library co-operation,
* develops electronic services for the users,
* extends resource sharing between the libraries.

These three activities complement each other in order to give the best access to the largest amount of research information for the users. One concrete result is the DEF-portal www.deff.dk, which is a single point of access to:

* quality controlled resources on the Internet,
* library catalogues,
* electronic journals and databases,
* Danish research information.

The future for DEF after the project phase starts to materialise, and the main challenge is to maintain and enlarge the success areas from the project period and find new valuable activity areas.

Finally experiences from a position controlling a national ICT project are summarised.

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1 Deputy Director, Danish National Library Authority, Denmark