

Incoming From the Newly Arriving President

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As Chief Librarian at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, I am very interested in collaborating with other theological libraries, both on a national and an international level. Those interested in hearing more about my particular workplace are welcome to read my conference paper, 'Looking into the crystal ball,' which I presented, together with my colleague Senior Librarian Rune Keisuke Kosaka, in Rolduc last autumn. Hence I will not give further background here. Instead, let me use this space to give a brief introduction to myself and my presidency.



I am still quite new to the field of theological librarianship, having worked in the arts sector for most of my career – in museums, archives, but first and foremost in higher education libraries. Cultural heritage and art are among my main interests, being an art historian by training, in addition to librarianship.

For those of us working in academic libraries, I think it is important to stay up-to-date with technological developments. This is challenging, but also something that provides great opportunities for our sector: enabling dissemination of

knowledge and research, both to our primary patrons as well as to an interested broader audience. With the requirements on the HE sector when it comes to the implementation of open science and the FAIR principles, my small team of librarians and I already spend a considerable amount of our worktime on questions related to open access publishing, data storage, licenses, right retention strategies, and so on.

I have a keen interest in library management and the development of library services. Strategic planning and connecting the Library to our institution's main goals and plans are extremely important. It is essential that we focus on doing the right things, allocating our resources to where they are best spent and most needed. When it comes to our students, this means further development of our information literacy classes, embedded librarianship, and opening up the library space for their uses. Our academic staff need support, both as teachers and researchers. The Library should and must be a natural partner to cooperate with within the wider organisation.

In Norway there are no church or monastery libraries, and the few precious collections of antiquarian books are either in the collections of small private secondary schools ("katedralskoler"), or the National Library/National Archives. Learning more about the work with these types of collections and libraries in our European community is something I am really looking forward to: be it preservation, conservation, their catalogues, or different ongoing digitisation projects.

The library sector has always been very cooperative, and willing to support, share, and learn from each other. Long may this continue. I hope that my knowledge and experience as a librarian and library leader for almost 30 years will be useful in my work as a member and President of the BETH Board. I look very much forward to having fruitful discussions with all the members of the association, to learning more about their activities, and to partaking in the development of shared BETH projects.