

# Strategies for research libraries of the future

Co-creating the future for libraries

Library Director Bertil F. Dorch, Ph.D. (astrophysics)
President of the Danish Research Library Association
Board member of LIBER
Member of IFLA's Standing Committee on ARL









Researchers

Research Units Research Output ... Search by £





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Overview

Network

Research Output (96)





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Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche Association of European Research Libraries





Delbey et al. Herit Sci (2019) 7:91 https://doi.org/10.1186/s40494-019-0334-2



#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

**Open Access** 

#### Poisonous books: analyses of four sixteenth and seventeenth century book bindings covered with arsenic rich green paint



Thomas Delbey<sup>1</sup>, Jakob Povl Holck<sup>2</sup>, Bjarke Jørgensen<sup>3</sup>, Alexandra Alvis<sup>4</sup>, Vanessa Haight Smith<sup>5</sup>, Gwénaëlle M. Kavich<sup>6</sup>, Kimberly A. Harmon<sup>7</sup>, Bertil Fabricius Dorch<sup>2</sup> and Kaare Lund Rasmussen<sup>1\*</sup>

#### Abstract

Efforts to read medieval manuscript waste recycled as bookbinding material in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries have resulted in the chemical analysis of four books housed at the University Library of Southern Denmark and the Smithsonian Libraries in Washington DC. Four green coloured book bindings have been investigated by optical microscopy, micro X-ray fluorescence, X-ray diffraction, Raman spectroscopy, mass spectroscopy, and laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. The results show that the green pigments used to obscure the manuscript waste in all four cases contain orpiment (As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>) and indigo (C<sub>1x</sub>H<sub>1</sub>,N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>). Although the books were printed in diverse places in Europe -- Basel, Bologna, and Lübeck -- the styles of their bindings indicate that they were likely bound in the same region in the same period, It is further likely that they acquired their arsenic-rich paint as part of the bookbinding process. Issues concerning the toxicity, health issues for library staff, conservators and researchers handling the books are also addressed.

Keywords: Rare books, Arsenic, Bookbinding, Handling of hazardous material, MS, LA-ICP-MS, µXRF, XRD, Raman, Book conservation

#### Introduction

Initially, three sixteenth and seventeenth century books were identified in the Herlufsholm Special Collection of the University Library of Southern Denmark, the bindings of which were partly decorated with green paint found to contain arsenic. This was reported in Denmark [1] and projected to the public, internationally, via The Conversation [2]. The matter received considerable public attention due to the apparent resemblance of the three green books to the deadly book of Aristotle that plays a vital part in the plot of Umberto Eco's 1980 novel The Name of the Rose. This media coverage precipitated the discovery of another book of the same period, also with green paint at the Smithsonian Libraries in Washington

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) that the latter also contained arsenic. Originally, relying only on µ-XRF in Denmark it was speculated that the paint could perhaps be Emerald Green (Cu(CH<sub>2</sub>COO)<sub>3</sub>-3Cu(AsO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), which the present work shows is not the case. This seems to be the first report on poisonous green book bindings in the scientific literature. The question of the nature of the green colour, its original purpose, its chemistry, the particular history of the physical objects, as well as issues related to the handling and keeping of the particular books-and of similar painted works-is of potential importance to academic and national libraries, archives, museums, collectors, as well as to historical chemistry and physics.

DC, USA. It became clear very quickly using portable

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The results of the present work are contextualized with a brief discussion of the materials used to create the paint, as well as sixteenth and seventeenth century binding practice. Finally, this paper addresses what the University of Southern Denmark and the Smithsonian



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Cultural Heritage and Archaeometric Research Team (CHART), Department of Physics, Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvel SS: 5230 Odense M, Denmark Full list of author information is available at the end of the article.



## Content

### Three topics

- 1. Current challenges for all
- 2. A strategical concept for research libraries
- 3. A strategy for an association ©





## 1. Current challenges for all

For libraries and for academia...



## Current challenges for all

Libraries and academia... The burning platform for any strategy!

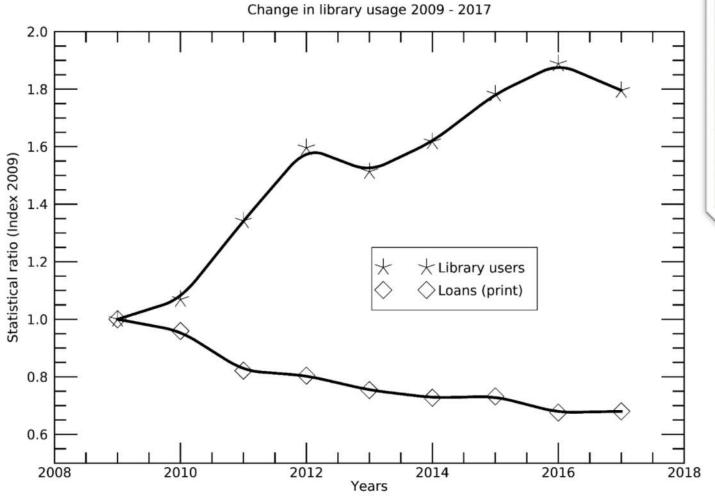
- A. Change management
- B. Predators and misconduct
- C. Para-academic industries
- D. Facilitating an Open world.



## A. Change management

Library use and library users change...

## Changing library use

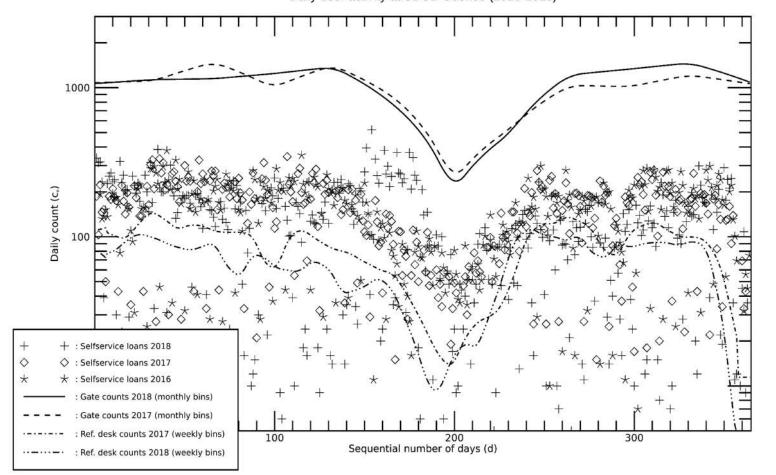






## Keeping track of users

Daily user activity at SDUB Odense (2016-2018)









## B. Predators and misconduct

Haunting academia and research institutions...

## Be aware of the predators

- Predatory journals and conferences
- Feeding on perverse incentives for researchers
- Some authors are willing prey / game!

#### THE EVOLUTION OF ACADEMIA



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## **Bad science**

#### Fanelli (2009)

1 percent admitted FFP

34 percent admitted QRP

14 percent colleagues guilty of FFP

72 percent colleagues guilty of QRP.

### Basic psychology:

- 40 % are completely honest
- 60 % will cheat if little chance of getting caught

Explosion in number of authors per journal article

1998: First article with more than 500 authors

2000: First article with moren than 2000 authors

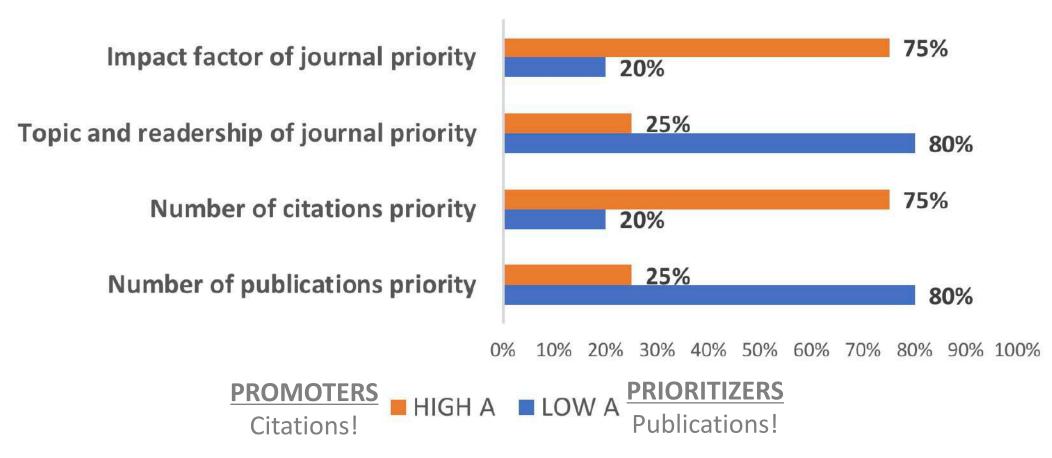
2015: Nature reports on an article with 5154





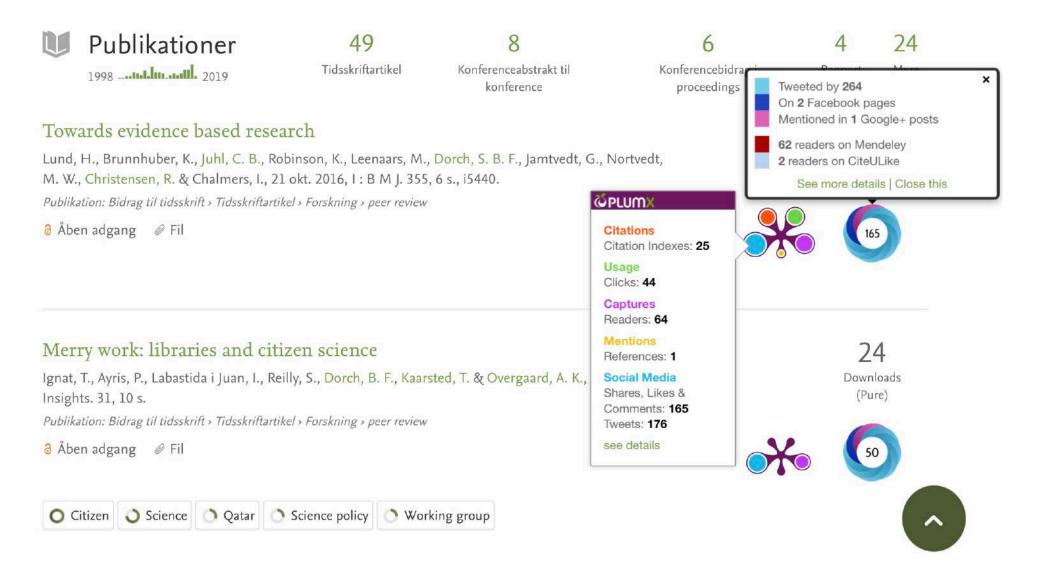
## Optimizing the h-index

#### FACTORS AFFECTING EFFECTIVENESS





## New metrics to game?





## A note on quantum mechanics

$$|\psi
angle = \sum_i c_i |\phi_i
angle$$

$$|\psi
angle = \sum_i c_i |\phi_i
angle \quad i\hbarrac{d}{dt}|\Psi(t)
angle = \hat{H}|\Psi(t)
angle .$$

Any state is a super-position of possible states

A measurement collapses the possibilties to just one state



Is the researcher dead or alive in the box (Ocelot in Paay).



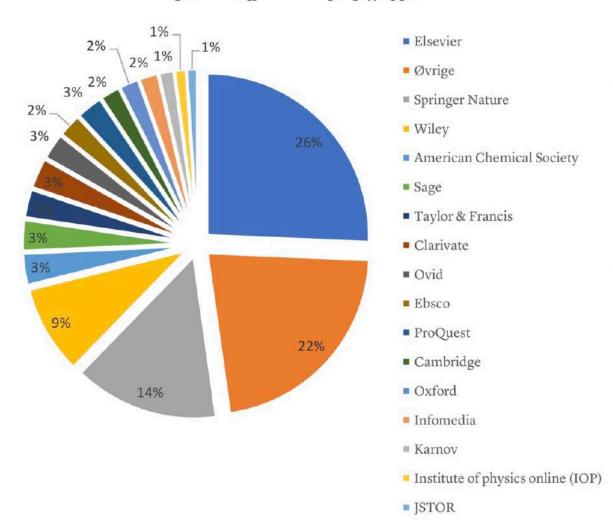


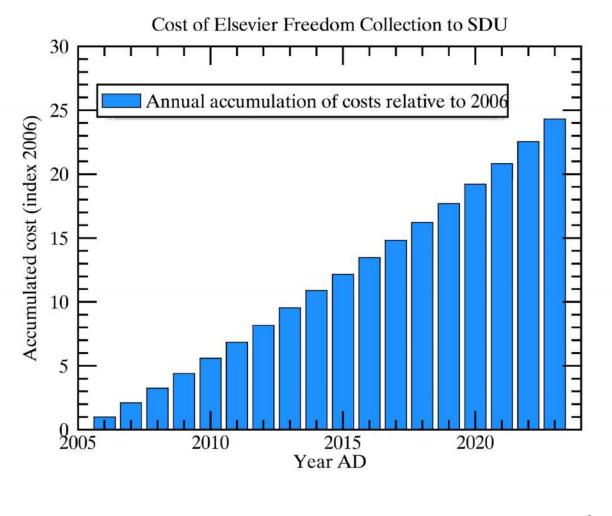
## C. Para-academic industries

... and in darkness binds us!

## The ever increasing cost

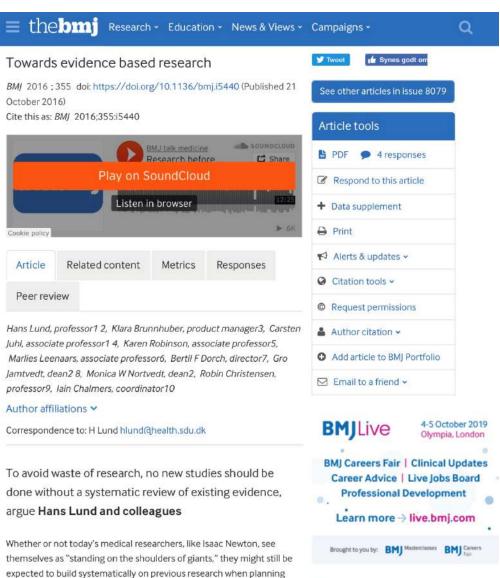
SDUB's udgifter til e-ressourcer fordelt på forlag i 2018: 32.347.558 kr.







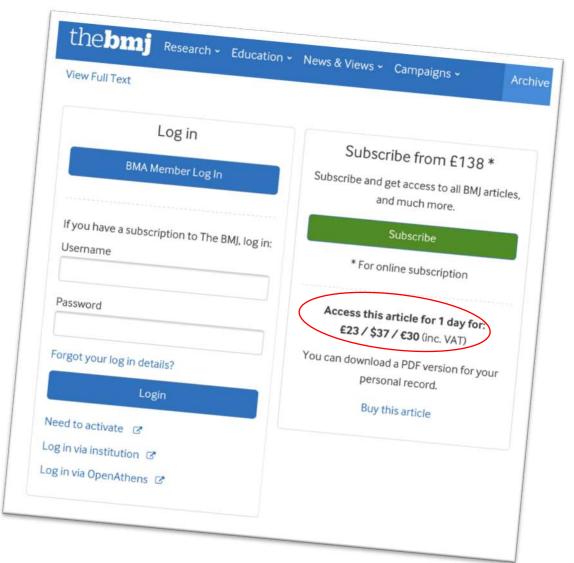
## Doing the hard work and buying it back



new studies. Even though this issue was highlighted as early as 2005,1 2

numerous studies indicate that researchers do not use a systematic

methodology to identify and refer to earlier research when justifying,





# Paraacademic industries

















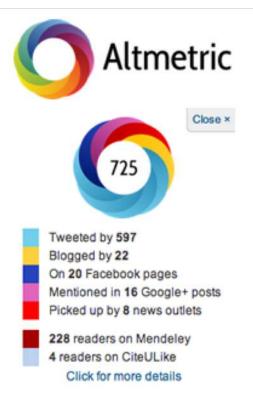




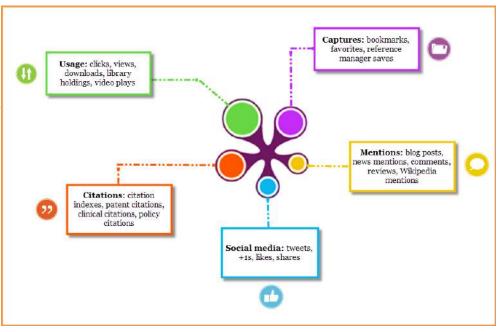




# Complete the ring that binds us













## D. Facilitating an Open world

Will they come if we build it?

## Open Science = good science

The key principles of the Singapore Statement are:

- Honesty in all aspects of research
- Accountability in the conduct of research
- Professional courtesy and fairness in working with others
- Good stewardship of research on behalf of others.

The overall purpose of the Danish Code is to ensure and strengthen hig quality research, and as integrity should pervade all research phases the co establishes three key principles of research integrity:

- Honesty to ensure the trustworthiness of research
- Transparency to ensure the credibility of scientific reasoning
- Accountability to ensure the reliability of research.

#### Open Science is closely related to

- RCR: Research integrity and responsibility
- Metrics / rewards: How to report "Open" (if at all)
- RDM: Handling and keeping of research data (FAIR).



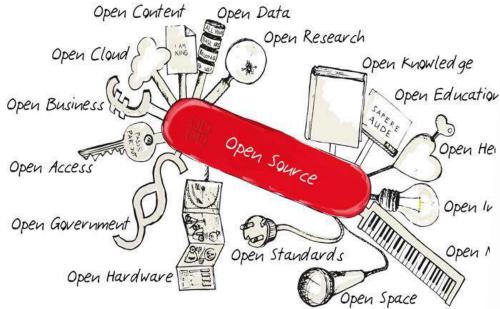
## Open, transparent and honest – the way we practice research

By Bertil F. Dorch\*

#### Abstract

This paper makes the case for Open Science as a means to support and practice Responsible Conduct of Research. Responsible and ethical research practices imply research integrity in terms of transparency, honesty and accountability in all parts of research, be it when attaining funding for research, collecting and analyzing research data, collaborating on research, performing scholarly communication, e.g. authoring and disseminating directly support responsible conduct and in fact, one can argue that Open Science Science is a ubiquitous prerequisite for good research practice.





Open Access means publishing resea online access to the publication and/c

### **SDU Open Science Policy**

#### 1. Preamble

The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) is known and respected globally as a university producing excellent research meeting the highest quality standards. This implies that all research associated with SDU must strive for trustworthiness and high integrity; this includes honesty, transparency and accountability.

The contribution of researchers and participants to the collection and creation of primary materials and data is of great importance to SDU. Research data is recognised as supporting research findings, contributing to further research and discussion, and

Responsible conduct of research includes proper management of research data, ensuring credible and transparent research and findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable research data. Hence, proper research data management enables research to be more efficient and open. SDU encourages that research data and research publications are made freely accessible, except when this is in conflict with legal or contractual obligations or current regulations on for example ethical, confidentiality or privacy matters or intellectual property rights.

Access to research data and research publications is thus recognized to enhance the potential impact of the research at SDU on research communities and society as a

#### Purpose

The intention of the policy is to support departments, researchers and research support staff by outlining how research data are managed at SDU from planning, during and beyond the life of the research project to:

the Berlin declaration5. The Danish government on the Danish government of the Danish government le socalled "green" mode of Open Access, or self-archiving. Self-archiving means publishing in a journal which is not Open Access and at the same time or after an embargo depositing a copy of the publication in a subject or institutional repository.



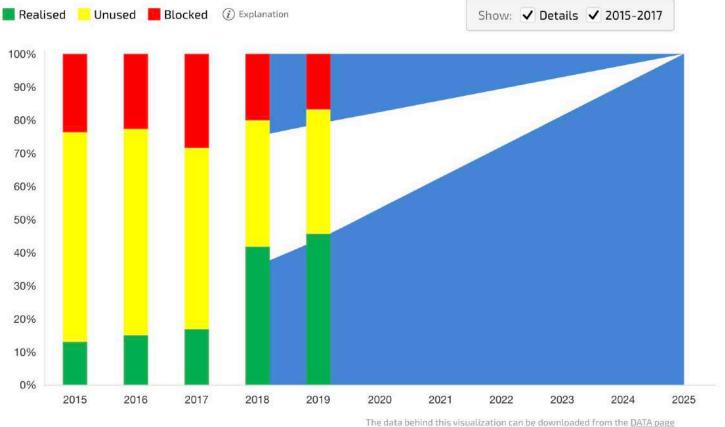
s immediate, free

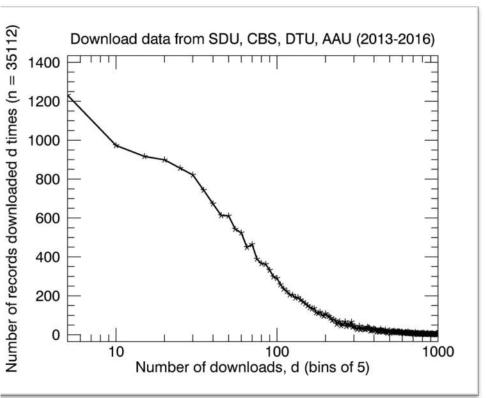
iers, as defined in



### It is not enough to just build it!

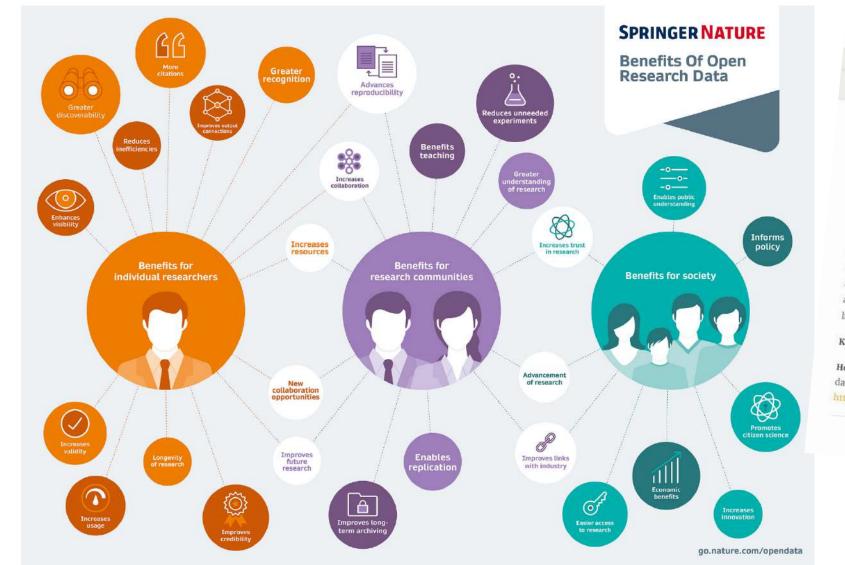
#### **University of Southern Denmark** (SDU)

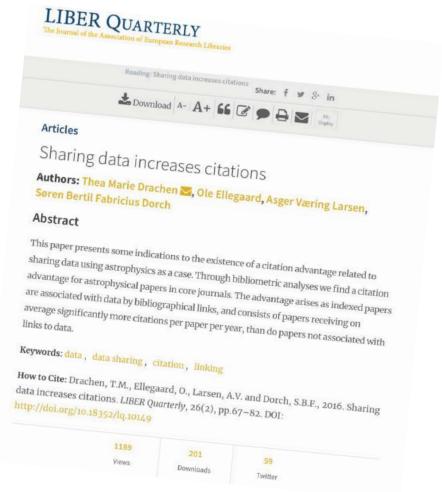






## Can we realize the potential of Open?







## Can we Open up research to the World?









# 2. A strategical concept for research libraries

A concept of balanced scales...

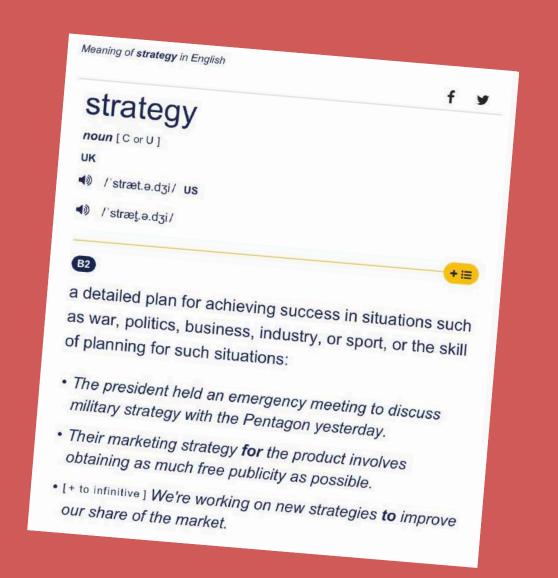




## A strategical concept

# How do we deal with the challenges?

- A. Strategy requires vision
- B. Nature of research libraries
- C. Balanced scales
- D. Research-based strategy



#### 1. Prerequisite

Strategy is grounded in a vision / idea







1. Prerequisite

Strategy is founded in a vision

2. Mission of research libraries

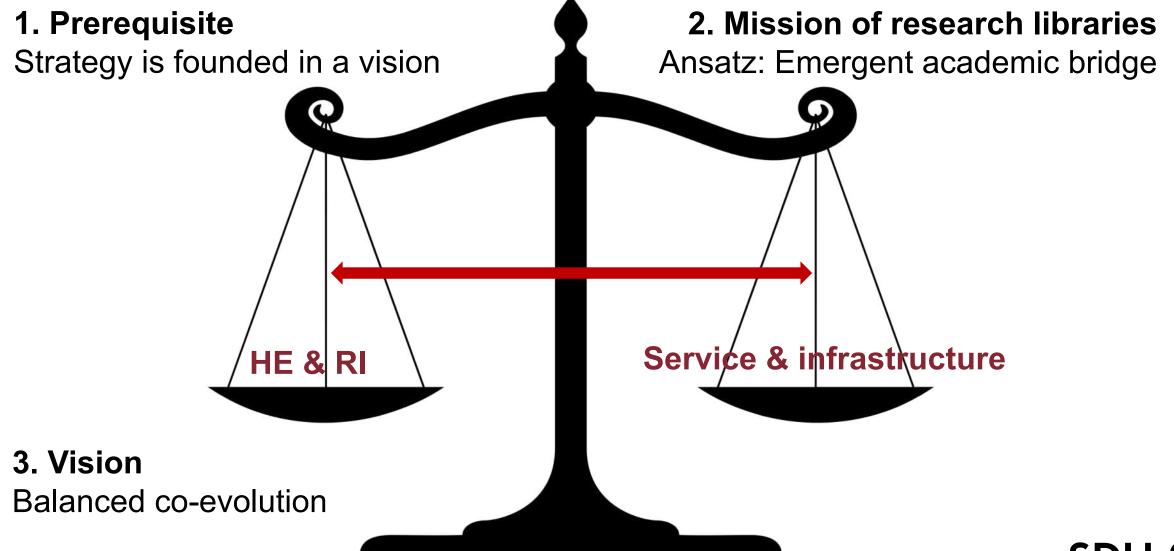
Ansatz: Emergent academic bridge to support the practice of good research

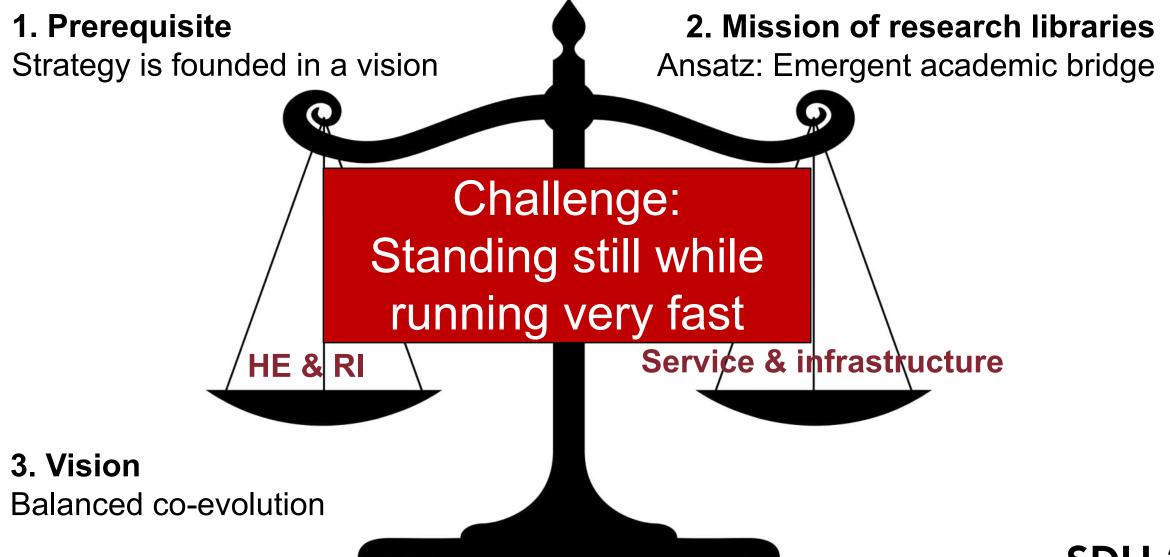


HE & RI

Service & infrastructure













## Library strategy at SDU

2013 - 2020

A research-based and co-evolving\* multicampus research library:

- Strategical management principles
- Thematic and strategical project portfolio
- Annual renewal of strategical fixpoints
   Strategical organizational change 2014
- Evaluation 2015.



## Strategy 2020ff

#### Mission – the long now

- ✓ The library is the university's library.
- ✓ The library builds a bridge to society for research, education and learning to the highest standard.
- ✓ The library is a regional research and educational library that constantly co-evolves its physical services wrt. the production, archiving and dissemination of scientific knowledge for and with the university and its partners ...

#### Vision – the medium term

- > The library is a research based library.
- ➤ The library aims to be the best research and educational library, and a democratic place for innovation, communication and learning across geography and subject, for researcher, students and citizens.
- > The library puts its skills to play in transformative partnaerhips and adds integrity and evidens to society.
- The library is bold, responsible and a leader of change.





## 4. Strategy for an association

The Danish Research Library Association...





# Strategy for an association

- A. The Danish Research Library Association
- B. Strategy process
- C. Result and implementation



## Danish Research Library Association

#### **Mission**

- ✓ To promote initiatives that benefit research libraries and the overall library system
- ✓ To provide a forum for discussion of library academic and library policy topics
- ✓ To cooperate with other library organizations and related organizations at home and abroad.

Founded: 1978

Members: 55 institutions

**Economy:** Institutional memberships

Organization: Office, board and working groups

**Events:** Annual conf. / GA, midterm, seminars



Never had a strategy but a burning platform:

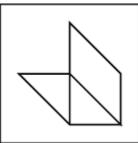
Report from Ministry of Culture – Quo Vadis??



# Strategy process during 2019

- Report 2018 from Ministry of Culture with recommendations included lots of literature ©
- Broad strategy project steering committee
- Project managed by NGO Think Tank "Future Libraries"
- Micro funding from Ministry of Culture (agency shut down).
- Open, transparent and inclusive process:
   13 interviews, 80 participants in four workshops
- Rapport recommended: Skills, relations and visibility
- Presented at Annual Conference 2019
- GA members vote "YES" on September 19!





Bibliotekarforbundet

Forbundet for informationsspecialister og kulturformidlere

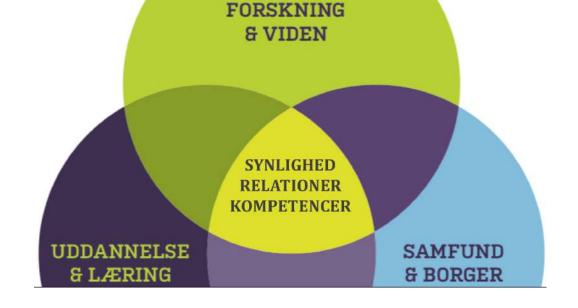




## Resulting strategy

#### **General vision frame**

- ✓ The libraries are educational institutions that ensures visible, free and equal access to knowledge, information and culture, based on principles of quality, versatility, timeliness, independence and relationships.
- ✓ The library is the professional partner and fixing point for information delivery, education and support for research and teaching.
- ✓ The libraries support researchers and students throughout their research cycle and learning process.
- ✓ The library is the visible local meeting place that systematically works to create spaces for community, cooperation and relationships. The library's physical space is part of the parent's research and study environment.
- ✓ The libraries ensure across organization and administrative boundaries - researchers and students' access to knowledge via a modern physical and digital infrastructure.



The implementation of the association's strategy will in the coming years be supported by strategic actions of four types of activity:

- > Skills development
- Networking
- > Common projects
- Representation and advocacy.







# The END And the beginning...

