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Lisa Huntsha

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News from the Swenson Center

A Study Trip to Sweden

BY LISA HUNTSHA
Librarian at Swenson Center

This past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Sweden and visit many different libraries, archives, and museums all across the country. My goal was to look at how these organizations use technology to both preserve and increase access to their collection materials. Digital trends – digitizing collections, creating new searchable collection databases, and curating virtual exhibits – are all important ways that heritage organizations are preserving and presenting their materials to a wide variety of audiences.

Generously funded by the Bicentennial Swedish-American Exchange Fund of the Swedish Institute, my study sought to uncover these trends. I toured 10 different organizations all across Sweden – from Gothenburg to Umeå – and met with 20 individuals to discuss this topic. The conversations were informative, inspiring, and sometimes surprising. The following are a few examples of digital projects happening in Sweden right now that may be of interest to you.

If you live in Sweden, or are planning a visit, be sure to visit the National Library (*Kungliga Biblioteket*) in Stockholm to use their new digitized newspapers portal. The library is scanning current newspapers and making them available in a searchable hub for researchers. You have to be physically present to use this resource, however, as it is only available in-house.¹

While at the Umeå University Library, I learned of the European service eBooks-on-Demand (EOD). This service allows you to request the scanning of a book that is no longer under copyright. You pay a nominal scanning fee and the eBook is de-



Lisa in front of Carolina Rediviva, the university library in Uppsala.

livered right to you. Then, it is also made available to other researchers online for free. Currently, about 30 European libraries participate in this network, with the goal of making older books more widely available. To find out more about this project, and to see or download available books (mostly in Swedish), visit their page on the Umeå University Library website.

Another available resource comes from the Royal Armory, Skokloster Castle, and the Hallwyl Museum in Stockholm. This organization has photographed collection items and made these images freely available online to download (many in high-resolution) and use under a Creative Commons license, which gives users the freedom to use and share these images. The goal of this project was to make the collection materials as open and accessible as possible. Search the collection (using Swedish

terms! but English also works) to view and download their collection images.

These are just a few exciting digital resources available from Swedish organizations. Visit the websites of other organizations to see what other projects are available.

Curious about what archival collections exist at the Swenson Center? Search our collection database and be sure to check out more of the Swenson Center's digital projects, including past issues of SAG from 1981 to 2007!

Links to databases mentioned in this article are found at p. 30!

Editor's note:

1) At the moment the newspaper *Aftonbladet* is free and online from the start in 1830 to 1863. Another digitized newspaper is *Svenska Dagbladet*, but it did not start until 1888, and is still under the 150 year copyright. To read newer issues you must visit the Royal Library.