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Children's interactive library:
Strategies and prototypes for the future
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Libraries for a knowledge society: a bottom-up perspective

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Means and ends

- Provision of children's libraries starts with
  - respect for children's own voices and actions
  - ideal of children's right to be informed and express themselves
    (the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child)

- Future provision of children's libraries ends with
  - responsibility of adults
    Knowledge about children's socio-cultural practices
  - adult reflexivity of their own ideals
    forms a basis for societal priorities and action

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Children's leisure culture: some trends

- Children's leisure culture is largely a mediated culture
- Mediated culture is multimodal and global
- Mediated culture interlaces
  - reception and production
  - physical place and virtual space

- Children learn through informal media practices (info, emotions, comm.)
- Children can and must handle "othernesses"
- Children can and must handle complexities
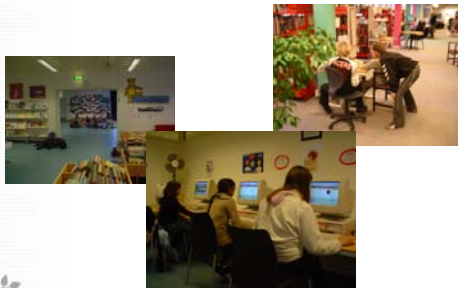 - Reading is supplemented, not

Implications for libraries in concrete terms

- Diversification of library uses
  - Physical library: more focus on traditional provision (concrete <u>information</u>)
  - Virtual library: more focus on innovative provision (<u>emotional</u> experiences (music), <u>peer communication</u> (chatting, blogging))
- Differentiation of user profiles
  - Young users: inclusive space

Differentiation: young and older users

Implications for libraries in wider terms: discursive challenges

- Literacy

  Reading and writing as cultural and democratic goods

  → literature as cultural and communicative ideal

- Media literacy

  The national leadership conference on media literacy 1992

  The ability to access, analyze, evaluate and communicate

  messages in a variety of forms

  → emotional expressiveness and interaction as ideal

- Information literacy

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Future challenges

- User perspective:
  Children need multimodal literacies in order to handle global complexities in a knowledge society
- Professional perspective:
  Libraries need to integrate discursive traditions of culture, information, and expression

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Libraries of the future

- Clarify and utilise differences between virtual and physical libraries
- Renew focus on developing the physical library
- Facilitate children's sustained multimodal competencies: from access and "being" to joint uses and sustained "doing"
  - Young coaches
  - The pervasive librarian

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Thank you for your attention