

Treading on thin ice?

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# THE WRITING ON THE WALL?

# LIBRARIES DO MATTER IN THE DIGITAL AGE

- ✘ Libraries in Iceland are not yet able to lend e-books
- ✘ The Nordic Library in Reykjavík lends Scandinavian books: Elib! It is still too expensive.
- ✘ There are problems with copyright and technology
- ✘ Young people are avid e-book readers – in English.  
What about the future of the Icelandic language?
- ✘ But – is there hope for the old, traditional book?  
Libraries are becoming “media-space-centres”
- ✘ The future must not depend on “belief”
- ✘ Many are still reading books on paper

# ON THIN ICE FROM THE START?

- ✘ Traditional book – publishers were worried - believing we were ruining their profits by lending out books
- ✘ Then came LP-records, tape, CDs, Videos, DVDs – always treading a thin line between legality and lawfulness – many shades of gray?
- ✘ One law against another: Legislation on public libraries vs copyright law – and still is...
- ✘ Politicians seem to believe in e- . Here is an example:

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
**BRUSSELS, 1 MARCH 2013**

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- ✘ 1. On 4 April 2011, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Regulation on electronic publication of the Official Journal of the European Union.<sup>1</sup>
- ✘ 2. The objective of the proposal is to ensure better access to law by enabling everyone to **rely** on
- ✘ **the electronic edition of the Official Journal of the EU as being official, authentic, up-to-date and complete.**
- ✘ 3. The proposal provides that only the Official Journal **published in electronic form** shall be
- ✘ authentic and shall produce legal effects. *However, in exceptional and temporary cases of unforeseen disruption of the electronic publication the printed edition would have legal value.*

# IS NOW THE END OF LIBRARIES AND BOOKS?

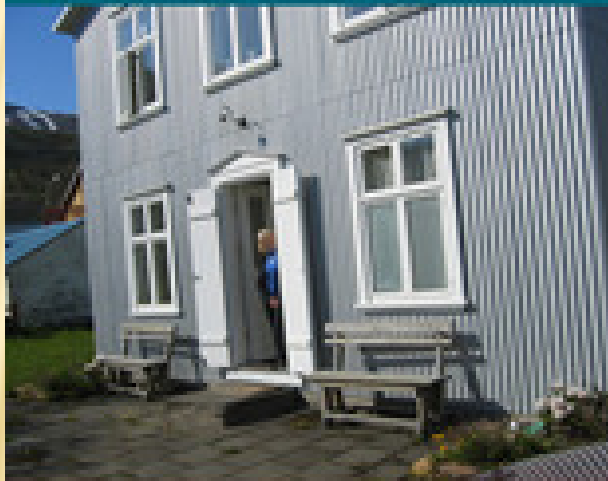
- ✘ "The writing on the wall" (or "the handwriting on the wall" or "the writing is on the wall" or "*Mene Mene*"), is an idiom for "imminent doom or misfortune" and for "the future is predetermined".
- ✘ The expression originates from the book of Daniel Chapter 5 from the handwriting on the wall that was witnessed at a banquet hosted by king Belshazzar. As those at the feast profaned the sacred vessels pillaged from the Jerusalem Temple, a disembodied hand appeared and wrote on the palace wall the words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, u-Pharsin." The prophet Daniel was summoned and interpreted this message **as the imminent end for the Babylonian kingdom**. That night, Belshazzar was killed and the Persians sacked the capital city.<sup>[1]</sup>
- ✘ The imminent end of the printed book? The end of libraries? The end of librarians?
- ✘ This is my handwriting on this wall and the next slide shows my first e-book:

# EMMA.IS

## HÚS Í MANNHAFI

eða TRÉ LEIKUR AD ORDUM

*Hrafn Andrés Hardarson*



# OTHER E-BOOKSHOPS IN ICELAND

- ✘ [eymundsson.is](http://eymundsson.is)
- ✘ [forlagid.is](http://forlagid.is)
- ✘ [skinna.is](http://skinna.is)
- ✘ **[Rafbokavefurinn.is](http://Rafbokavefurinn.is)**
- ✘ Þessi vefur er meistaraverkefni í hagnýtri menningarmiðlun unnið af Óla Gneista Sóleyjarsyni. Vefurinn á að hýsa allskonar efni á rafbókarformi sem er hentugt að lesa með rafbókalesurum og spjaldtölvum.
- ✘ Stefnan er að gera vefinn að samvinnuverkefni þegar þeim hluta sem snýr að lokaverkefninu er lokið

# THE FUTURE IS HERE

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- ✘ In e- we trust? Everyone his/her own webpage!
- ✘ Can the forest be found for trees?
- ✘ The writing is literally on the wall/screen.
- ✘ A few libraries lend devices to read books from – e.g. special and research libraries with limited number of textbooks
- ✘ That is no solution – not all can afford to buy all the e-books they want/need to read!



# NON-E-BOOKS VS E-BOOKS?

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- ✘ The public's access to e-books is limited in Iceland as it is elsewhere. Libraries play a vital role in making reading material and information readily available to the public in all kinds of form. The value of **the action of reading** is unquestionable both for people's advance in society as well as for their own progress in life. Do the same qualities apply in the reading of e-books as of printed books?

# WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN BOOKS!

- ✘ A research which was done in the UK among children, first in 2005 and later in 2011 shows that children's ownership of books has decreased during that period. One child in ten did not have a book in 2005 but one in three in 2011! Many studies show that children's access to reading materials is very important for their language development and reading skills. In addition they show that children who do not receive books as presents are not as skilled in reading as those who do. (Clark, Woodley og Lewis, 2011).

# IS THE WEB OVERRATED?

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- ✘ The belief in e-something - E-mail instead of Emil?
- ✘ Is Veri-sign the very sign of this belief in everything e-something?
- ✘ Advent of radio was to rid us of the need to build more churches
- ✘ Advent of the car was to rid us of horses
- ✘ Advent of inter-net is to rid us of human contact?
- ✘ The advent of e-books to rid us of libraries?
- ✘ Advent of new technology meand new challenges!

# THE BOOK IS DEAD!

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× Long live the book!

# GOOD OLD GUTENBERG IS STILL AT IT!

- × <http://www.gutenberg.org/>
- × **Project Gutenberg** offers over 42,000 free ebooks: choose among free epub books, free kindle books, download them or read them online.
- × We carry high quality ebooks: All our ebooks were previously published by *bona fide* publishers. We digitized and diligently proofread them with the help of thousands of volunteers.
- × No fee or registration is required, but if you find Project Gutenberg useful, we kindly ask you to donate a small amount so we can buy and digitize more books. Other ways to help include digitizing more books, recording audio books, or reporting errors.
- × Over 100,000 free ebooks are available through our Partners, Affiliates and Resources.
- × Problem is: They are mostly very old! Out of copyright!

# YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CLEVER

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- ✘ Which e-book reader to believe in ?
- ✘ The question is not which reader but the general availability and access of the public to books in all forms -
- ✘ Publishers are anxious and fear a loss of profit, but then they have always been
- ✘ I have tried it all – but still believe in paper. I have even read a whole book on my iphone!
- ✘ Why we get fat – and how to prevent it!

# SOLUTIONS:

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- ✘ Same regulations as with other books
- ✘ State compensation by royalties to authors for copyright
- ✘ State buys x thousands of books and distributes to public libraries as has been done in Norway for decades with printed books
- ✘ Changing attitudes: -
- ✘ Media Space Centres

# READ FOR YOUR HEALTH

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- ✘ Reading (books) is also a sport
- ✘ A book is a venue for the **healthy sport of reading**
- ✘ We should all stop believing in form and start believing in the sport of reading
- ✘ Reading books (in any form) extends your life and improves it: you live longer by reading books. Go often to the library and download books
- ✘ <http://slq.nu/?article=iceland-one-lives-longer-by-visiting-the-public-library>



# SVOT

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- ✘ Book lovers are strong and so is the love of books
- ✘ Main “*enemies*” are:
- ✘ Vague **attitude** of local and state governments towards **future role** of libraries
- ✘ Vague **attitude** of library- and information scientists towards the **future role** of libraries
- ✘ Necessity to widen up the activities of libraries
- ✘ The need to improve/change the IMAGE of the profession of librarians and information professionals.
- ✘ In Iceland, a *bókasafns- og upplýsingafræðingur* becomes *upplýsingafræðingur*.
- ✘ Publishers are not our enemies, but they need comforting!

# INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS SUE AMAZON AND PUBLISHERS OVER E-BOOKS

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- ✘ At the heart of the lawsuit is the idea that the top publishers signed secret contracts with Amazon that allowed them to code their e-books in such a way **that the books could only be read on an Amazon Kindle** device or a device with a Kindle app. The booksellers are pushing for open-source coding that would allow readers to buy e-books from any source and download them on any device.
- ✘ They argue that the proprietary coding compels consumers who own Kindles or tablets with Kindle apps **to buy e-books only from Amazon**. The lawsuit states that the publishers have no similar contracts with independent booksellers. It also notes that Apple once used similar exclusive coding, known **as DRM**, in the music business, but that after a series of legal challenges, all music available on iTunes was made DRM-free.
- ✘ From the New York Times, Monday, March 11, 2013

# THE “MANY” USES OF PAPER-BOOKS?

× <http://youtu.be/UR4mLIyjYo>

# THE VENUE:

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- ✘ A concert hall is a venue for music
  - ✘ A football ground is a venue for football
  - ✘ A restaurant is a venue for eating
  - ✘ A “book” is a venue for reading
  - ✘ A library is a venue for lifelong learning and
- CULTURE FOR ALL**

# MEDIA SPACE CENTRES

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- × **Denmark sets an example: Urban Mediaspace Aarhus**
- × The centre of Denmark's second-largest city, Aarhus, will see the rise of an ultramodern, stylish construction project: Urban Mediaspace Aarhus. The building will be located right by the river, surrounded by the most important buildings in the city centre. The goal is to make it the city's heart of knowledge and culture – a permanent icon for Aarhus for up to a thousand years!

# BRIGHT FUTURE IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD

## ✘ Facts

- ✘ A budget of approximately 1.9 billion Danish kroner makes Urban Mediaspace Aarhus the largest construction project the City of Aarhus has ever undertaken.
- ✘ The waterfront spaces altogether comprise approximately 23,000 m<sup>2</sup>. This equals 4 football fields.
- ✘ Mediaspace will hold room for approximately 350,000 adult and children's media. Media include e.g. books, periodicals, films, music and games.
- ✘ On the roof of Mediaspace, 3,300 m<sup>2</sup> of solar cells will generate energy for the house and thus reduce the overall energy consumption.
- ✘ The car park will accommodate 1,000 cars and is thereby the largest automatic car park in Europe.

# THE “PREMIUM LEAGUE” OF READING

- ✘ The occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kopavogur Public Library saw a National Reading Championship League:
- ✘ Childrens’ story hours,
- ✘ Old People’s Reading Clubs
- ✘ Gjabakka Poets’ Group reading
- ✘ Poets Club of Kopavogur reading
- ✘ The Big Reading-Aloud Competiton Final

# E-BOOKS IN ICELAND

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- ✘ The most popular e-book, open to all, free of charge is the Telephone directory: ja.is
- ✘ Encyclopædia Britannica is open to the public in Iceland through the national Landsaðgangur
- ✘ And so is Grove music and 14.000 international periodicals!
- ✘ But when we talk about e-books we mean “several shades of red!” in other words: CRIME
- ✘ Arnaldur Indriðason, Yrsa Sigurðardóttir, Stieg Larson and Henning Manckel



# LEITIR.IS

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- ✘ For the sake of browsing we have leitir.is the web catalogue for all material in almost all libraries in Iceland, via Gegnir.is
- ✘ A vital instrument in finding what you want
- ✘ Then we have timarit.is for magazines and periodical articles
- ✘ If you want to pay, you can get articles also at mbl.is the old Newspaper Morgunblaðið

# SEEK – AND YOU SHALL FIND...

- × <http://www.leitir.is>
- × Our future is bright:
- × The Global eBook Market: Current Conditions & Future Projections
- × By [Ruediger Wischenbart](#)
- × Publisher: O'Reilly Media Released: October 2011 Pages: 97
- × <http://shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920022954.do?sortby=publicationDate>