



Decoding our Collections

Enhancing Data Literacy, Research, and Outreach through Cultural Heritage Hackathons

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Presentation outline

- What is a hackathon?
- How to organise a hackathon
- Why organise a hackathon?
- Results
- Reflections
- Discussion topics
- Kudos and image credits

What is a hackathon?

- Hackathon: portmanteau of the words *hack*, 'explorative programming' and *marathon*, 'a long distance foot race', meaning 'gathering a group of people for a limited period of time to do a digital task together'. (Digital task = usually programming.)
- In *these* hackathons 'digital task' is reimaged
- My attempt to solve three issues
 - increasing the knowledge about the collections,
 - increasing the participants' information literacy skills,
 - enriching the collections with metadata.

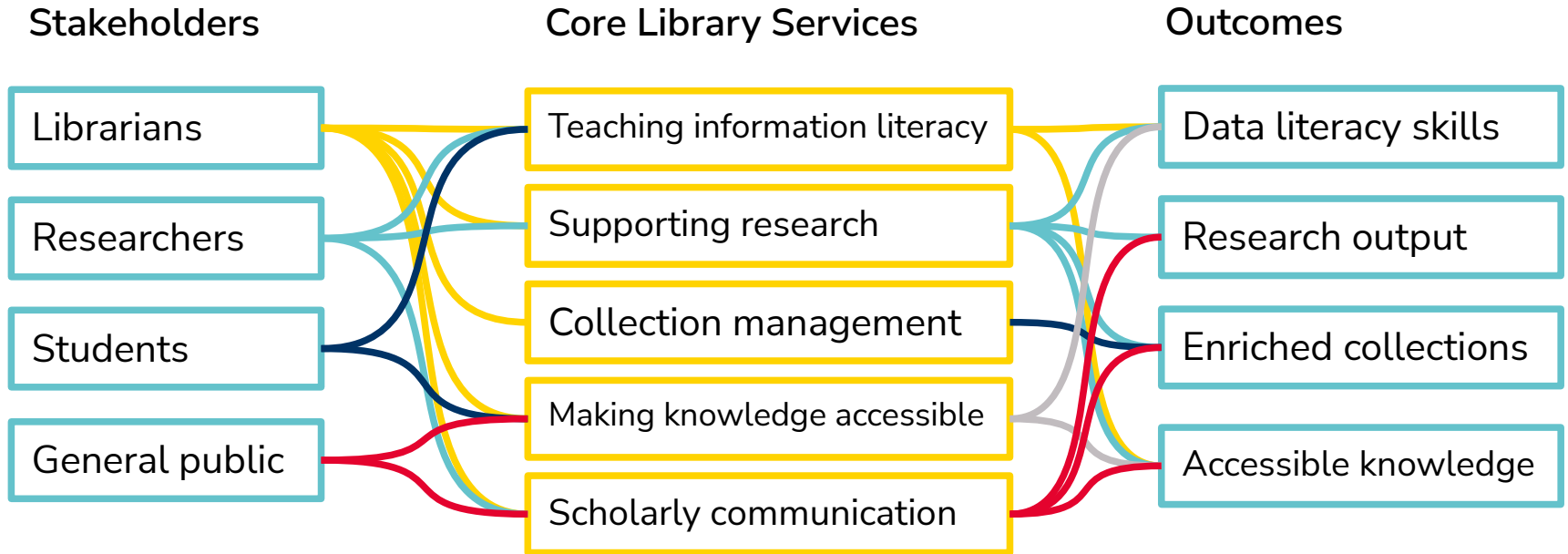
Prerequisites

- A university librarian, with focus on digital methods (digital scholarship librarian) – mainly supporting the humanities because of perceived digital gap
- Library management with a tentative interest for digital humanities, hitherto mainly explored through seminars
- Digitised cultural heritage collections
- Researchers interested in exploring the use of collections in teaching and research

Organising a hackathon

- Infrastructure and routines for events and courses pre-existing (LibApps)
- Thematic refreshments: coffee, cola and micro pizza
- Setting up and planning a task for participants (subject matter, workflow, software)
- Pedagogical approaches (instruction, troubleshooting, continuous UX)
- Metrics and follow-ups

Supporting core library services



Data literacy

- Important sub-literacy of information literacy
- Data literacy can increase the understanding for knowledge organisation, within the library and in other online collections, which makes it easier for stakeholders to navigate and critically assess collections and collection management.
- Crucial skill for students and researchers when reading, assessing, and making research

Research support

- Research libraries support their users throughout the research life-cycle



Enriching collections

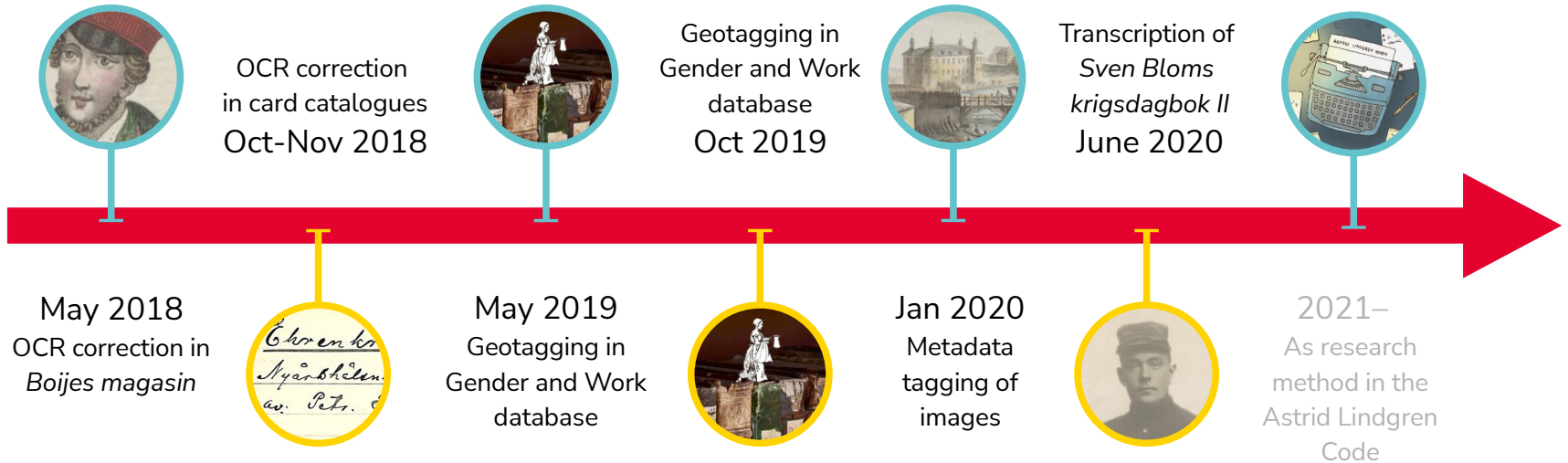
- Completionist ambition not always feasible
 - Subject matter deciding factor
- What type of metadata is useful from a *knowledge organisation* perspective and from a *user* perspective?
 - Transcribed text increases usability, tagged images may increase findability of objects in collections, metadata such as geodata may allow for new ways of exploring a collection and/or a research question

"You have much untapped power. Do you even realize your potential?"



Results from hackathons

Timeline



Summary of hackathons

| Hackathon | Time | Space | Task | Software |
|---------------------------------|------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Boijes magasin</i> | 4 h | Carolina Rediviva | OCR correction of text in <i>Boijes magasin</i> (a 19th century fashion magazine). | From The Page |
| Occasional Poetry Catalogue x 2 | 5 h | Karin Boye Library | OCR correction of catalogue cards. | Integrated to the digitised catalogue |
| <i>Gender and Work</i> x 2 | 4 h | Karin Boye Library; Ekonomikum Library | Geo tagging (identifying and adding geo coordinates) historical place names. | Google Docs |
| Metadata tagging x 2 | 3 h | Carolina Rediviva | Free tagging of five selected images | Recogito |
| <i>Sven Bloms krigsdagbok</i> | 2 h | Online (Zoom) | Transcription of handwritten text. | Omeka and Scripto |

At the hackathon

Student:

Hey, how do I write these dashes on the catalogue card? Do I count them?

Researcher:

They refer to "Anders-dotter" so maybe we should replace them with the full name?

Librarian:

The name is searchable through the index post so we should decide whether we go for name or standardise to e.g. "---" in all similar occurrences.

- Questions, insecurities, etc.
- What is important data for users
- How do data and searching in digital catalogues work?

At the hackathon

Student:

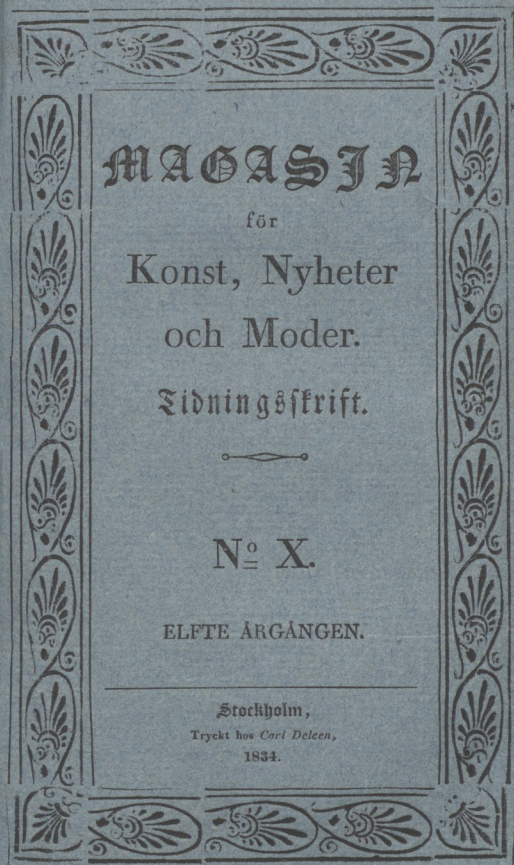
Hey, how do I write these dashes on the catalogue card? Do I count them?

Researcher:

They refer to "Anders-dotter" so maybe we should replace them with the full name?

Librarian:

The name is searchable through the index post so we should decide whether we go for name or standardise to e.g. "---" in all similar occurrences.



N:o X.

Magasin

för Konst, Nyheter och Moder.

October Månad 1834.

Pl. 37.

*Maria Letitia Ragniolini Bonaparte,
Napoléons Moder,*)*

föddes den 24 Aug. 1750 i Ajaccio på ön Corsica. Den adelig ätten Ragniolino härstammar ifrån Grefvarne Cotalto; hvaraf den som först nedsatte sig på Corsica, förmådde sig med en dotter af Dogen i Genua och blef flerfaldiga gånger på et hedrande sätt utmärkt af denna Republik. Letitias Mor ingick et sednare gifte med en Schweizare ifrån Basel.**) Som han var protestant, öfvertalade hon honom at gå öfver til Katholska Religionen, hvilket han äfven gjorde. Cardinalen Fesch, Letitias halfbror var enda afkomlingen af detta ägtenskap.

Den unga Letitia Ragniolini var en af Corsicas mest omtalade skönheter. I Mars månad 1767 gifte hon sig med Carlo Bonaparte, som eluru en af Paolis förtrognaste vänner, i sina medborgerliga förhållanden framstod utan klander. Åtskillige scribenter hafva bemödat sig bevisa Bonapartiska familjens adelig härkomst, men efter glansen som Napoléon gaf åt densamma, vill det synas öfverflödigt at hålla jagt efter neddamnade pergaments-bref eller familjesägner, för at förskaffa sig uplysningar om den store Mannens föräder. Hvad håtar det efterverlden om Napoléon härstammade ifrån

*) Utur: Porträtter och Lefvernesbeskrifningar af alla tiders och länders märkvärdigaste Fruntimmer, af Hertiginnan af Abrantes.

**) Han var Capiten vid et Schweiziskt Regemente i fransk tjenst, som garnisonerade på Corsica. Häraf uplyses hvarföre Cardinal Fesch var mycket yngre än hans half-syster.

Elfte Ärgången.

H

Boijes magasin

Librarians/library

- searchable text corpus

Researchers and students

- close-reading of text
- OCR critical data literacy applicable to all digitised texts

General public

- knowledge about cultural heritage collections and how they can be (re)used

Occasional Poetry Catalogue

Librarians/library

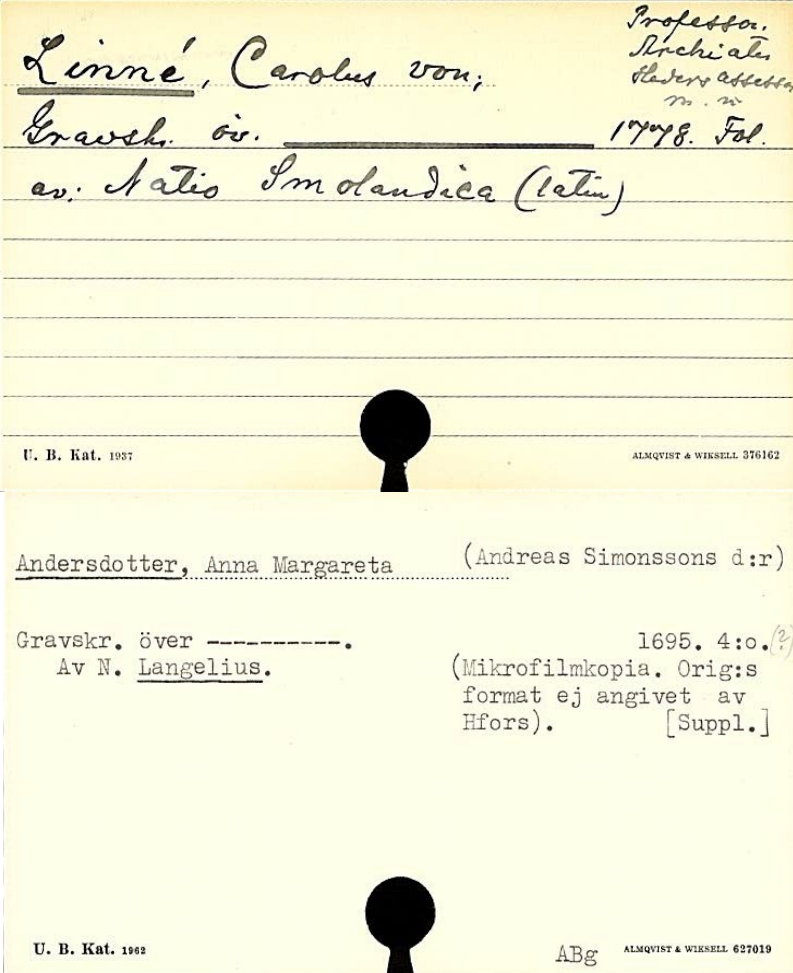
- searchable catalogue – every correction → better data

Researchers and students

- knowledge about collections
- OCR critical data literacy applicable to all digitised texts
- skill development in reading handwriting

General public

- knowledge about the content of collections and how to access them



Gender and Work

Librarians/library

- data literacy instruction (structure of geodata, searching in databases of place names, from spreadsheet to data visualisation)

Researchers and students

- data literacy skills and skills in finding information

- richer metadata in database – more data needed!

General public

- data literacy skills and skills in finding information

Sökdatum: 2022-06-22 16:13:28
Antal träffar: 17
Antal fall med träffar: 9
Sökkriterium: bokhållare
Avgränsning:
 Hela databasen
 Källtext + källtrogna variabler
 Källtext

[Spara listresultat till fil](#)

Orsa (Dalarna), häradsrättens protokoll 1736, 1737: Fall 5741

...dsaker, hwarföre påstod å honom den plicht, som Lagen i dy mål Kräfwet. För samma ordsak, nu bemte. **Bokhållare** af Capitain Ädel och Högachtad hr. Birger Elfving instämd, under det på- stående, som dess ingifne ...

Beteckning (1): Bokhållare

Ramnäs (Västmanland), bruksräkenskaper 1674-1690: Fall 11285

Gudmund Tröskare med sin Camrat688 [---] Tröskat och mått aff logenaff bokhållare___ 14 taff mig___ 10 t 2 fa 16 öre tunnan___ 12:4

Samling av våldtäktsfall, 1600-1800: Fall 7507

...arl Jöns[?]: i Hägersta ett halvår, samt sedan andra halva året hos en vid namn Söderberg som varit **bokhållare** hos rådmannen Nyberg i Hedmora, och därefter åter begivt sig hem till dess moder, därest han nu vi...

...t och vidkänt.Varefter länsman anhöll, att tills i morgon få inkalla hr. löjtnanten[?] Lindman, och **bokhållare** Ohring att höras, ang:de den av Larsson erbjudna förlikningen, som beviljades: och tillsades länsm...

Verbfras (källa) (1): varit bokhållare
Verbfras (nutida) (1): tjäna hos bokhållare
Verbfras (nutida) (1): vara bokhållare
Beteckning (1): bokhållare

Stockholm, kämnärsrättens protokoll 1650, 1690, 1748, 1751: Fall 1841

Samma dagh woro till conference Johan Dahlström på handelsmannens sahl. Adam Leyeys sterbhus wegnar emoth v. Präsidentens sahl. Hr: Arfwid Ifwarssons sterbhus, på hvars wägner war bookhållaren Märten...

Beteckning (1): bokhållare

Stockholm, kämnärsrättens protokoll 1650, 1690, 1748, 1751: Fall 1865

... många åhr betient hafwer, efter som han wähl skall gifwa dee stycken widh handen som till een godh **bokhållare** höra; Rynin frågades: om han icke ännu will gå till Meijer och lähra kånsten uth? Swarande sigh ick...

Beteckning (1): bokhållare

Stockholm, kämnärsrättens protokoll 1650, 1690, 1748, 1751: Fall 8827

[...] bookhåll:e Johan Lytken emoth kâ[c]ken M:r Sven Olsson, hwiken genom sin drångh Mauritz Simsson nu läth uth Rätten upwjsa sin book, som medh den inlagde Räkningen öfwermed kom...

Verbfras (nutida) (1): tjäna hos bokhållare

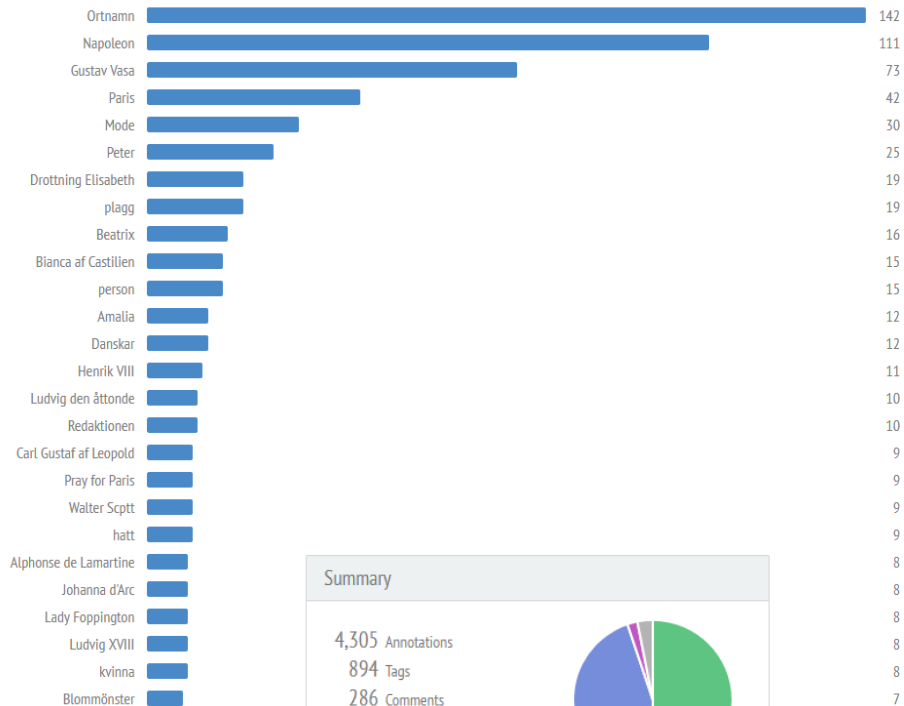
Metadata tagging

Potential outcomes

- enriched collections through user-generated metadata
- easier/different/expanded navigation of cultural heritage collections
- researchers reflect on own metadata, data management, knowledge organisation

Conclusions from exploratory hackathon

- careful planning needed to define clear objectives, metadata types and vocabularies
- benefit from peer production of metadata, less arbitrary tagging due to the immediate feedback on insecurities



Summary

4,305 Annotations
 894 Tags
 286 Comments
 50 Relations
 94 Contributors





Sven Bloms krigsdagbok

Ett crowdsourcingprojekt
vid Uppsala universitetsbibliotek



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Sven Bloms krigsdagbok

Librarians/library

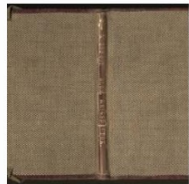
- full text transcription of digitised item in collection

Researchers and students

- close-reading of text
- skill development in reading handwriting
- understanding of text vs image in digitised collections

General public

- as above depending on interest



#1

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
April 20, 2020 11:56am

Status
Approved



#2

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
April 20, 2020 11:57am

Status
Approved



#3

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
June 18, 2020 1:52pm

Status
Completed



#4

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
June 8, 2020 12:45pm

Status
Completed

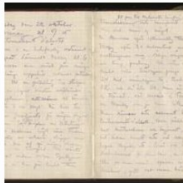


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[Transcribe](#)

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June 9, 2020 9:53am

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In progress

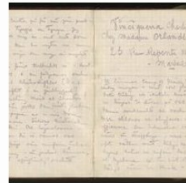


#6

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
June 8, 2020 1:03pm

Status
In progress

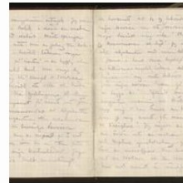


#7

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
May 20, 2020 1:14pm

Status
Completed



#8

[Transcribe](#)

Last transcribed
May 20, 2020 1:57pm

Status
In progress

[Back](#)

Reflections

- Cultural heritage hackathons were more or less successful in its objectives (data literacy, research support, outreach, enriching collections)
 - Considering time and effort – how much bang for the buck?
- Crowdsourcing with integrated hackathons useful as a research method
 - Example: The Astrid Lindgren Code
- Where was the general public?
 - Opportunity to expand on citizen science elements, but a strategy is needed.

Discussion topics

- The role of management in supporting staff initiatives (iterative workflows vs rigid templates)
- Facilitating interdepartmental experimentation – is this at all possible?
- Is the "end product" important or can the process be a result in itself?

Kudos

- Cecilia Ekström, former manager at Uppsala Uni Library (now at UiO)
- Janne Komminaho, coordinator at Uppsala Uni IT services
- Per Cullhed, Uppsala Uni Library
- Mikael Alm, professor in history at Uppsala Uni
- Gudrun Andersson, professor in history at Uppsala Uni
- Malin Nauwerck, researcher at the Swedish Institute for Children's Books

Image credits

From Magasin för konst, nyheter och moder. Årg. 11 (1834) pp. 183, 187, 189, public domain

From Occasional Poetry Catalogue (images 1241 and 36573)

Hackaton på Karin Boye-biblioteket, Mikael Wallerstedt, © Uppsala universitet

Jon Irenicus, Volfram8, CC BY 3.0

Various images from Alvin related to the projects

Astrid Lindgren work desk, Jenny Jansson (used with permission)

