

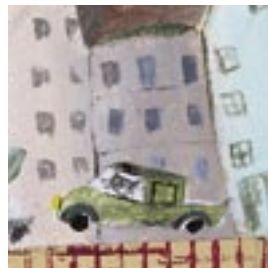
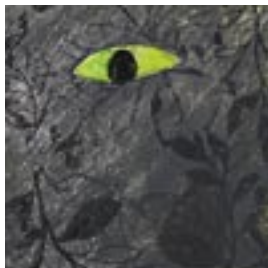
CHILDREN'S BOOKS HAVE AN ACTIVE LIFE

In Denmark, day care centers and nursery homes, school libraries and children's libraries, among others, offer children of all ages many activities related to books:

- Day care centers and the like have books for children and their parents to read aloud.
- Authors and illustrators of children's book are invited to visit school and children's libraries to tell about their books and make "writing workshops".
- Reading campaigns flourish in the summertime. For example, when schoolchildren have read five books and reviewed them, they get a book as a present.

Some of the latest activities are due to the campaign "Love for Reading" launched by the minister of culture, Brian Mikkelsen, with the aim of encouraging children and young people to read more and enjoy literature. The campaign is still running, on an even bigger scale, since the ministry of education and the ministry of family affairs and consumption have joined it. Among the activities so far are:

- Books for children in hospitals.
- Libraries in day care centers and the like, and visits by illustrators and authors.
- Books that support the integration of different cultures.
- School classes adopting authors who will visit them and run writing workshops.
- Annual awards to the best picture-book, the best comic book and the best book for young people, selected by children. More than 20.000 children participate through the national broadcast and the internet.
- Training of people who are working with children's books.
- Support of book clubs for girls and boys where they review books they have read, and meet their author.
- Production of dvd-films which bring inspiration to schools on how to work with the same author for a long period.
- "In-house authors", i.e. an author is connected to a kindergarden, a school or a children's library.



Mention should also be made of the national campaigns for children's books – “The Festival of Good Stories” - which have been held some years apart since 1956, the last time in 2005. The festival focuses on children's literature in all imaginable forms and media, and one of its many positive effects is to create networks between, for instance, commercial and non-commercial interests. For example, children's book authors and illustrators are invited to visit school and children libraries to tell about their books and make “writing workshops”.

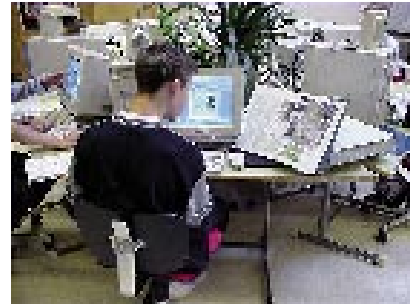
Not the least, numerous children's books have been adapted for screen or stage. Many of them have been awarded internationally, e.g. movies based on books by Bjarne Reuter and Ole Lund Kierkegaard.

Actually, children's books have an active life wherever grown-ups and children meet – in churches, museums, and different organisations such as sport and scout clubs. So in general children's books in Denmark are going strong, alongside netbased and other electronical media where young people also meet and interact with stories and story-telling.

Libraries in Denmark

The Danish library service is characterized by these main features:

- national coverage
- extensive
- interconnected
- many-sided
- open for everybody
- free



The various libraries range from big university libraries to small public libraries and school libraries and are connected with each other in one extensive system that makes materials from any library accessible to anybody everywhere in the country, whether it is requested by a user of a research library or a school library. This structure secures an optimal use of the total stock of materials. Furthermore, in principle the service is free for all. The system is built as an umbrella organisation formed by two national libraries above the whole range of other libraries.

All municipalities must provide a public library service that offers loans of books, periodicals, audio-books, music, multimedia, as well as internet access – in other words, function as a gate-way to the widest possible range of information and amusement.

All residents in Denmark may use the libraries, and very many do so. The libraries command the great confidence of the people, as reflected by the high numbers of loans and other kinds of usage.

The children's and school libraries are particularly well rooted and function as the first place where children are introduced to a world of information and experiences. Danish legislation ensures that every public school has a school library, and that a children's library is an integrated part of every public library.