Digital Reading Groups - Towards Library 2.0

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• Presentation
• Background – www.litteratursiden.dk
• Digital Reading Groups - structure
• Old wine on new bottles?
• Digital Reading Groups – Charateristics
• Three types of new skills
• Questions - discussion
Focus in the study:

• The structure and usability of the website – how is it organised? How does the user experience the website?

• Advantages and disadvantages for the user – how does the user experience this type of digital literature promotion? Is it possible to attract new user groups?

• Advantages and disadvantages for the librarian – to what extend does working with the digital reading groups change the self-understanding of the librarian? Can working with the digital reading groups function as a tool to develop new skills for the librarian?
Background – www.litteratursiden.dk

• Main webpage for literature promotion – ”a source to inspiration and literary expeditions” – ”to promote new and old voices in the universe of literature”
• Launched 2002
• New edition 2009 – litteratursiden 2.0
• Produced and financed by the members of litteratursiden
Background – www.litteratursiden.dk
Digital Reading Groups – main page
Digital Reading Group - exampelet
Digital reading groups - structure

Moderators
Group profile
Book of the month
Membership
Visiting author
Old wine on new bottles?

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<th>Physical Reading Group</th>
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Quotes on digital reading groups - members

"I think it is good that it is a free forum where you aren’t obligated to show up at a particular time and place. When ones time is limited, it is nice that you can join the reading group by midnight or while watching TV."
(female member, 24 years)

"I do not have to think about how I look or appear. I can also write around the clock. It is not so fixed, when its on the internet."
(female member, 27 years)
”Since there is no duty to attend, it is difficult to insist on involvement.” (female moderator, 29 years)

”The anonymity can be a disadvantage because people don’t take responsibility for participation in the debate and for answering the other members.” (female moderator, 32 years)

”We find it difficult to get hold in all the members in the reading group. Members, who are not that ”talkative” has an easy job hiding themselves.” (female moderators, 34 and 29 years)
Digital Reading Groups - characteristics

Web 2.0
New ways of communication
Developing new skills
Librarian 2.0
"It is harder than we thought to write in a short and precise manner and at the same time to create an relaxed and friendly atmosphere.” (female moderators, 34 and 29 years).

"It is always difficult to discuss in the form of a forum - firstly because not everyone can express themselves very well and secondly because written language has a bigger possibility for misunderstandings.” (male member, 29 years)
"I get a chance to discuss with users in a different way than in the ordinary lending department. In the lending department you promote more than you discuss. On the web you discuss with others.” (female moderator, 51 years)

"It is a role I had to get used to, the informal role where I to a larger degree have to use my personality. It is not that it is unnatural to me, it is just a new role.” (female moderator, 32 years)

"It is difficult to balance between being a know-it-all, to nurture the debate and at the same time not to appear to much like a librarian.” (female moderator, 52 years)

"I develop my skills in written communication in a total different and much more informal direction. The written promotion I use to make is more formal and correct. I develop my ability to write short and accurate in relation to literary analysis and reading experience.” (female moderator, 32 years)
Three types of skills

A new type of written communication/promotion
The moderators build an ability to express themselves in spoken language in writing in an informal tone, an ability which can be used in other forms of digital communication and promotion e.g. chat and podcast.

New form of promotion base on dialogue
The moderators increase their ability to act as an equal discussion partner rather than an expert, an ability they can use in connection to other types of promotion.

New technical skills
The moderators gain an insight into some of the new systems, which is used in digital promotion. Through this they get a deeper hands-on experience with the internet.
Digital reading groups

• Questions
• Discussion