

# eLib and Swedish Public Libraries

## Swedish libraries enhance services and reduce costs by lending Adobe PDF-based eBooks from eLib

### PROFILE

- Sweden's largest eBook provider
- Employees: 5
- Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden
- [www.elib.se](http://www.elib.se)

### BENEFITS SUMMARY

- eBooks published in Adobe PDF allow Swedish libraries to extend access to people with disabilities and those living overseas or in remote locations in Sweden.
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Public libraries today are looking for innovative ways to enhance services while simultaneously reducing operating costs. One strategy involves offering patrons electronic books, or eBooks. eBooks are available at any time and from anywhere in the world; plus they are less expensive to lend than paperbound books. But lending eBooks presents its own administrative challenges. For example, libraries must place limits on how long eBooks can be checked out, ensure that only borrowers can read them, and guarantee that publishers receive compensation. With the help of eLib, Sweden's largest eBook distributor, and Adobe Content Server software, public libraries across Sweden are lowering their operating costs and extending access to patrons.

"Our goal is to be accessible 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world," says Martin Hafstrom, deputy library director for the Stockholm Public Library. "By working with eLib to lend eBooks in Adobe PDF, we can better reach people with disabilities or people living overseas or in remote locations in Sweden. At the same time, we can retain administrative control." Currently, the library offers patrons access to more than 130 titles as Adobe PDF-based eBooks.

### Overcoming copyright issues

eLib converted many of the most popular Swedish novels to Adobe eBooks that are sold through a retail Internet bookstore to readers worldwide. When Swedish libraries became interested in

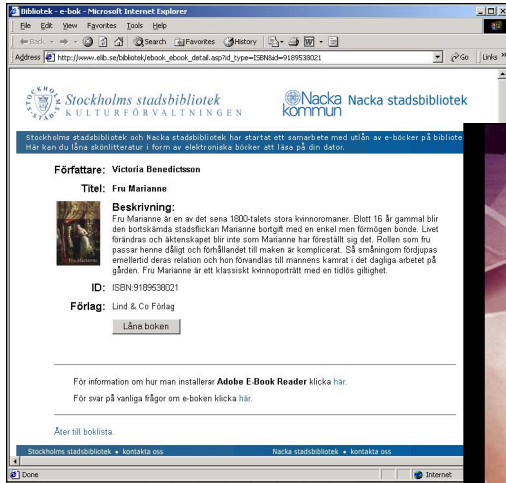
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"Adobe Content Server is vital for our library customers, because it provides controls such as allowing us to put time limits on eBooks and specifying whether or not they can be printed," explains Fabian Fischer, eLib's chief technology officer. "As the popularity of eBooks grows, the ability to manage copyright issues such as these becomes increasingly critical."

### Popularity on the rise among patrons

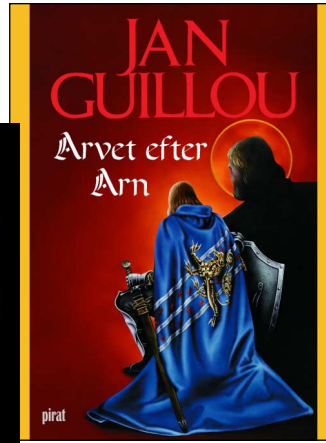
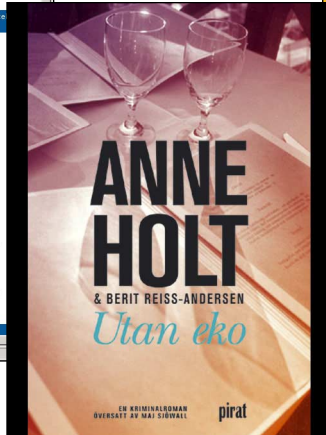
Since June 2001, libraries in Stockholm and Nacka have allowed patrons to check out books as Adobe PDF-based eBooks, and recently 15 more libraries including Lund and Kalmar also added the service. Swedes living in such faraway



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*“Readers benefit because Adobe PDF retains the exact look and feel of the laid out pages, and libraries benefit from the rich set of digital rights management features in Adobe Content Server.”*

*Fabian Fischer  
Chief technology officer  
eLib*



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#### **Ideal for libraries**

eLib believes that Adobe eBooks are becoming more than just a novelty for Swedish libraries, especially because they offer a way to cut operating costs in half. On average, each paperbound book that is checked out of a library costs \$3 in personnel costs, book wear and tear,

and new book purchasing. In contrast, it costs only about half this amount to manage the process of lending Adobe eBooks.

About 25 other libraries across Sweden are now interested in offering Adobe eBooks through

eLib, and Fischer believes that in a year’s time libraries will account for 90% to 95% of the distributed books. “For libraries, Adobe eBooks and Adobe Content Server are the natural choice,” Fischer explains. “Readers benefit because Adobe PDF retains the exact look and feel of the laid out pages, and libraries benefit from the rich set of digital rights management features in Adobe Content Server. The combination is ideal for libraries that want to offer eBook services.”

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