

Inspire Change in Public Libraries with Citizen Science

Pedersen, Anja; Kjærbye Jakobsen, Anne-Mette

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INSPIRE CHANGE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES WITH CITIZEN SCIENCE

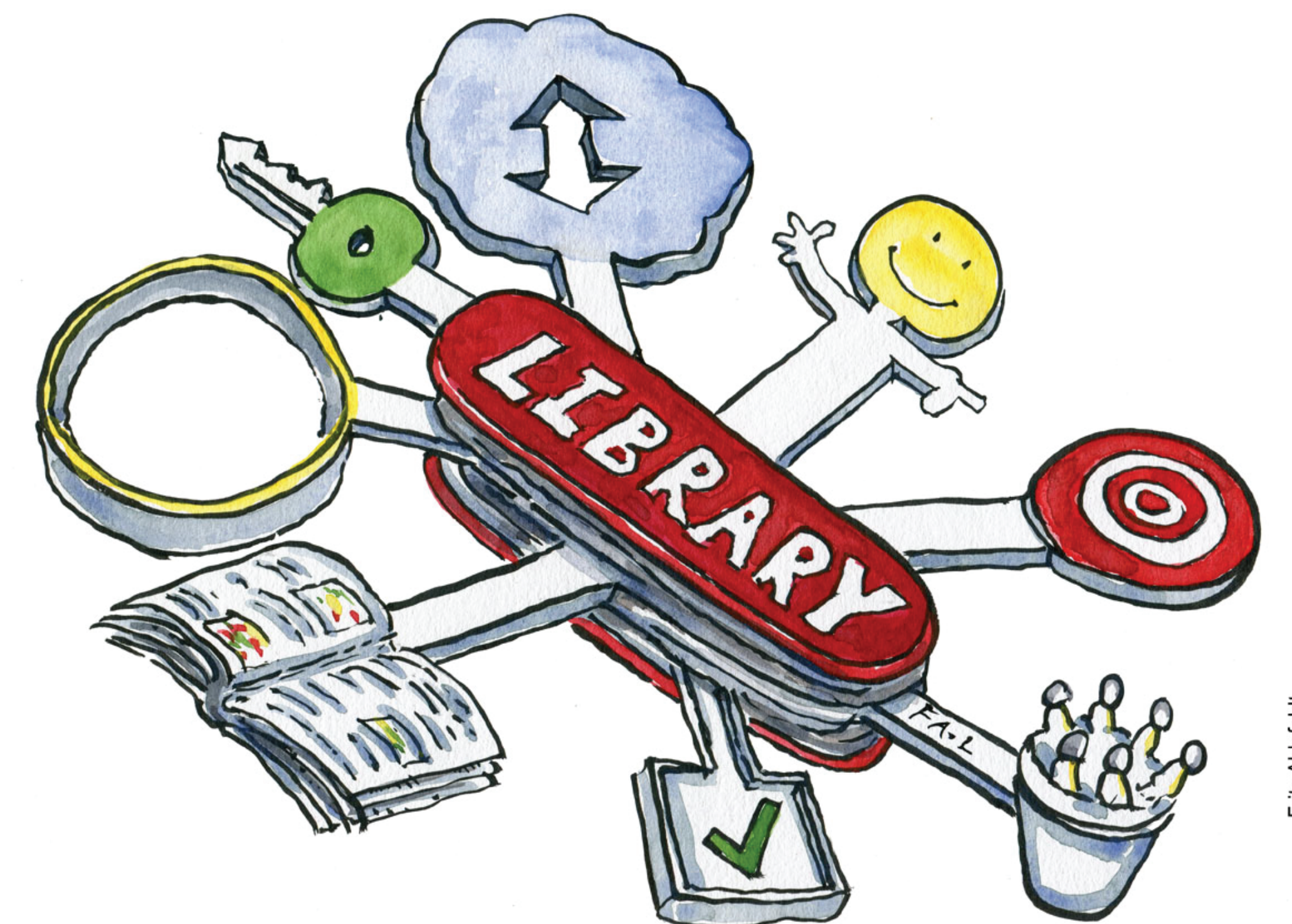
Why should Librarians do Citizen Science?
Because democratization of culture and knowledge is their core essence!

The University of Southern Denmark and The Odense Libraries lead the way with the project "Scientific communities in public libraries" during 2024. Partnering with public libraries in Kolding and Helsingør, we explore the vast potential of Citizen Science, and how both universities and public libraries through strategic cooperation and shared interests can offer participation in Citizen Science regardless of size of the public library-communities.

The societal context in which public libraries operate is changing

Libraries have to respond to both citizen's needs and expectations, align with public agendas – local as well as national - and develop new co-creational practices to always keep being relevant partners in tune with the surrounding society.

Embracing and engaging in Citizen Science is a relevant and opportune practice to both engage local communities of all ages via the libraries, and to work to promote sustainable goals and initiatives. **New skills and practices are added to the public library core task of promoting access to knowledge, life-long learning and being a democratic platform .**



Promote Citizen Science

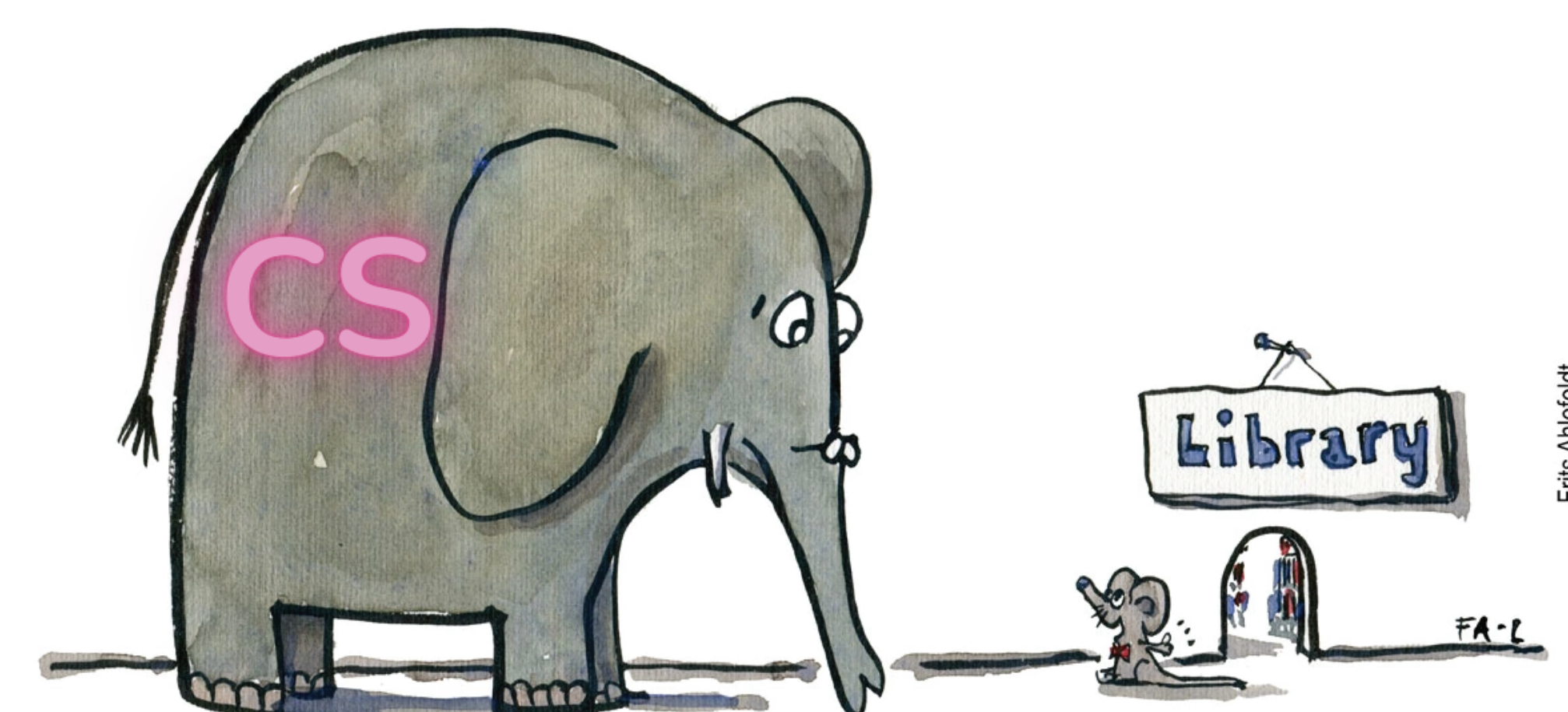
Citizen Science is often used for data collection. However, engaging citizens in science goes beyond this. **Co-created Citizen Science** projects have the potential to be transformative and have a wide impact on public understanding and the sense of making a difference together.

Scientists and public librarians have the perfect opportunity to make a joint effort in engaging local communities and interest groups in Citizen Science via libraries. Public Libraries exist in all municipalities in Denmark by law and offer free and equal access for all. Librarians are highly trusted by the public, making libraries an ideal setting for wide public engagement in providing new scientific data and disseminating new facts and knowledge.

Goal

The aim of our joint-project is to promote knowledge about Citizen Science and make research accessible to citizens of all education and social levels through communication and learning. **We want to create a model for embedding Citizen Science in public libraries**, enabling citizens to participate in science projects via libraries regardless of their municipality size or distance from a university. **The key to success is to bring citizens closer to science and scientists closer to society.** Reciprocity, democratizing and co-creation are huge impact values.

Studies show that the roles of both librarians and users in the 'next generation public library' remain underdeveloped . Cigarini, A., Bonhoure, I., Vicens, J., & Perelló, J. (2021)



Join the movement and inspire Change

Do you want to know more? Follow the QR code and read our flyer

UN, EU and Human rights embraces Citizen Science.



Presented by:

Senior librarian University of Southern Denmark / Affiliated to the SDU Citizen Science Center **Anja Pedersen - anjap@sdu.dk**

Special consultant – The Odense Libraries, Odense Municipality, Denmark **Anne-Mette Kjærbye Jakobsen - amk@odense.dk**

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