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Children's reading habits: An interview study

The Danish libraries provide access to a great amount of books, several reading-activities and good dialogues with literature and literacy agents. In other words, to all the ingredients which are central for establishing a good reading culture.

Typically, families with young children visit the libraries but the visits become more rare when the children grow older, and many teenagers lose their interest in reading books.

Why is that? And how can the libraries support a reading culture among teenagers?

To answer these questions the National Centre for Reading and the National Centre for Learning Material in Denmark carried out a qualitative interview study (Kvale, S. & Brinkmann, S., 2009, Halkier, B., 2008) in which 28 children, at the age of 11-12 years, participated.

The purpose of the interviews was to gain insight into their reading habits. How did they understand reading in general? In which locations and at what time of the day did they read? From whom did they get inspiration to read and, of course, what was their conception of the libraries? The presentation presents the survey and the results (Hansen, S.R., Gissel, S.T., Puck, M. R., Lund, H.R, 2018).