Bibliotekarstudentens nettleksikon om litteratur og medier

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Om leksikonet: https://www.litteraturogmedieleksikon.no/gallery/om_leksikonet.pdf

Bokby

En forholdsvis liten by der det er samlet mange antikvariater og bok-kafeer og der det ofte foregår bok-/litteraturarrangementer som forfattertreff og lignende. Det kan være uvanlige måter å vise fram og distribuere bøker på. En bokby tiltrekker seg turister som er boksamlere og litteraturinteresserte.

I Norge er Fjærland (i Sogn) og Tvedestrand kjent som bokbyer. Andre bokbyer er blant annet Torup (Danmark), Mellösa (Sverige), Sysmä (Finland) og Hay-on-Wye (Wales; verdens første bokby).

Richard Booth etablerte i 1961 en forretning i sin hjemby Hay-on-Wye i Wales rett ved grensen til England, og begynte å samle store mengder brukte bøker. Booth har blitt kalt en biblioman (Bittner 2017 s. 87). Han leide tomme lagerbygninger og fylte dem med brukte bøker og bøker kjøpt fra bokhandlere som var på konkursens rand. I 1976 kom han med i Guinness rekordbok som den mannen i verden med flest brukt bøker. Besøkende begynte å komme til byen for å se bøkene og kjøpe. Etableringen av en litteraturfestival i 1988 bidro også til å gjøre stedet kjent, som den gang hadde 900 fastboende. I 2016 hadde festivalen blitt til en av verdens største (Bittner 2017 s. 66). Bokbyen og festivalen bidrar gjensidig til å trekke folk til stedet og styrke næringslivet der.

“In 1961, Richard Booth began filling empty buildings in Hay-on-Wye, Wales, with second-hand books, turning the town into the world’s first ‘book town’. His success inspired others, and soon book towns emerged across Europe – in Belgium (Redu), France (Bécherel, Montolieu), the Netherlands (Bredevoort), Switzerland (Saint-Pierre-de-Clages), Norway (Fjærland), and Finland (Sysmä). In 1998, Bredevoort hosted an international festival uniting booksellers from several book towns, fostering global connections in this growing movement. […] Before the 1998 festival, Marit Mauritzen from Fjærland visited several book towns to promote collaboration. This led to a joint funding application by Vestlandsforsking, the University of Strathclyde, and five book towns. The EU granted support for project UR 4001: European Book

Town Network, focused on using telematics to support sustainable rural development through cultural heritage. Launched in September 1998, the project helped booksellers adopt internet tools for communication, promotion, and sales – moving beyond letters, phones, and faxes. The final meeting, held at the 2000 International Book Town Festival in Mühlbeck-Friedersdorf, led to the formation of the International Organisation of Book Towns, officially registered in the Netherlands in April 2001. The founding board included Miep van Duin (Redu) as president, Timo Hänninen (Sysmä) as secretary, and Henk Ruessink (Bredevoort) as treasurer." (https:// international booktowns.org/history/; lesedato 25.06.26)

Besøk i bokbyer er en form for litteraturturisme (Bittner 2017 s. 85). Det har blitt etablert en International Organization of Book Towns, og denne definerer en bokby som en liten, landlig by med en stor mengde bokantikvariater og bruktbokhandlere. Ofte finnes det på stedet også verksteder som driver med boktrykking, kalligrafi, papirproduksjon, bokdesign, bokbinderi osv. En av verdens mest kjente, og antakelig den eldste bokbyen, er Hay-on-Wye i Wales (rett ved grensen til England), etablert av Richard Booth på 1970-tallet.

"In the book village of Mühlbeck-Friedersdorf you will find antiquarian bookstores offering more than a quarter of a million books to the visitor, reader or collector. On the western edge of the Düben Heath, not far from the Goitzsche, the two neighboring villages of Friedersdorf and Mühlbeck joined forces in 1997 to found Germany's first book village. The world's first book village in Hay-on-Wye, Wales, serves as the model for this accumulation of printed matter. There are hundreds of books for every inhabitant of the two villages. […] The antiquarian bookshops offer collectors and book lovers everything imaginable that has ever been printed on paper: Novels, reference books, non-fiction, postcards or curiosities. Inexpensive paperbacks can be discovered here as well as valuable rarities. Some of the antiquarian bookstores have specialized, for example, in science or literature for the hobby. […] 2006: The Book and Art Garden and the Book Garden Dream Center are opened." (https://www.kohle-dampf-licht-seen.de/en/staedte-sehenswuerdigkeiten-landschaften/book-village-muhlbeck-friedersdorf; lesedato 20.08.26)

I 1984 ble den første belgiske bokbyen grunnlagt i Redu. Landsbyen Redu var i krise på 1980-tallet. Stadig flere flyttet bort, så de 450 innbyggerne som var igjen i 1984 besluttet å gjøre stedet til en "Village du Livre" og inngå et partnerskap med den berømte bokbyen Hay-on-Wye i Wales (Bittner 2017 s. 89). Reklamen for Redu viste seg å være effektiv, så besøkertallet økte raskt. Flere etablerte forretninger der (en økning fra 25 forretninger til 43 på mindre enn 20 år; i 2016 var det 15 antikvariater/bokhandlere der). Et negativt trekk som noen turister har reagert på, er at stedet i stor grad tilbyr salg av bøker som ikke har latt seg selge andre steder i Belgia.

I 1988 og 1990 kom de to første franske bokbyene, i Bécherel og Montolieu (Bittner 2017 s. 89). I 1993 dukket den første nederlandske opp i Bredevoort og i 1996 den første sveitsiske i Saint-Pierre-des-Clages. Bokbyer har også blitt etablert i Tyskland, Finland, Norge, Japan, Malaysia og andre land. I Sør-Korea er Paju en bokby (Bittner 2017 s. 92), mens Clunes i nærheten av Melbourne i 2007 ble den første australske (Bittner 2017 s. 95). Purgstall ble den første østerrikske bokbyen (Bittner 2017 s. 106). I England er Sedbergh en bokby, og i Skottland Wigtown.

Den amerikanske forfatteren Larry McMurtry "opened a bookstore in his hometown of Archer City, Texas, in 1988 and began the process of remaking the town into a "book town," eventually requiring four storefronts to house all the volumes he had added. In 2012 he held a massive auction that sold off some 300,000 titles." (https://www.britannica.com/biography/Larry-McMurtry; lesedato 20.08.26)

"Paju Book City, the Korean Town All About Reading (and Publishing, Printing, Browsing, Buying...) […] its builders have also pitched it as "a City to Recover Lost Humanity," presumably the humanity so many state-of-Korea-bemoaners see as having been mercilessly wrung out of the country by its rapid and deep industrialization of the second half of the twentieth century […] The beating heart of Paju Book City takes the form of its Forest of Wisdom, a 24-hour library stocked to the ceiling with hundreds of thousands of books donated for anyone to read and staffed by ladder-climbing volunteer "book recommenders" […] Weekends see the dozens and dozens of tables in its cafe packed by readers, many of them families with young children. In its capacity as something of a theme park of letters, Paju Book City also offers attractions geared directly toward youngsters […] Adults in a more soul-searching mood can opt for a visit to Café Hesse, one of quite a few coffee shops in Paju Book City, but the only one inspired by the author of Siddhartha, Demian (an oddly popular novel here in Korea), and Steppenwolf. Other book cafés have different themes and specialties – not that their drink menus vary much – but all of them make use of the space afforded them in this accommodating location to surround their customers with as many volumes as possible. In a sense, the coffee comes free; you just pay to drink it in a space filled with books." (Colin Marshall i https://lareviewofbooks.org/blog/the-korea-blog/paju-book-city-korean-town-reading-publishing-printing-browsing-buying/; lesedato 20.08.26)

Bokbyen Kolkata ligger i India. "Towards the end of the 18th century, Kolkata became a major printing centre, thanks to the East India Company, which built up the industry for commercial reasons. It has retained that pedigree, and the International Kolkata Book Fair, established in 1976, is now the world's biggest book fair for the general public. Though not an actual town, College Street, in the northern, older part

of the city has turned itself into a haven of bookselling. Known locally as Boi Para (Colony of Books), it is regarded as the largest secondhand book market in the world. Around 1.5 km long, and running from Mahatma Gandhi Road to Ganesh Chandra Avenue, it is home to a long stretch of street stalls, traditional bookshops, publishers, and educational institutions. Some of the booksellers claim a family tradition going back more than 100 years. The stock is eclectic: especially good for textbooks, it also stocks fiction and non-fiction, pamphlets and other printed ephemera, largely in Indian languages (particularly Bengali) and English. Combined with the street's busy, often chaotic, character, it makes for a colourful browsing experience. Among the bricks-and-mortar bookshops are the National Bookstore (opposite the Presidency University), Dasgupta & Co (College Street's first bookstore, set up in 1886) and Bani Library (a family-run business for five generations). One of the most famous landmarks along College Street is the Indian Coffee House, opposite the Presidency University, part of a chain owned and run as co-operatives by its employees. Though not noted for its coffee, it does have a long history as a meeting place for intellectuals, artists, and politicians, as well as local students." (Johnson 2018)

"For its size and population, Featherston has more bookstores than anywhere else in Aotearoa/New Zealand. […] The Dickensian Bookshop was born out of an original idea to rescue literature and save our written heritage. […] From the outset The Dickensian Bookshop set out to be the home of English literature. Covering books from the Victorian era, through to the heyday of the 1920's and the classic period of the 1960's. We also stock a large selection of the best of modern authors, focusing on Pulitzer and Booker prize winners and quality popular literature. We are equally proud of our large selection of New Zealand books including sections on literature, poetry, biographies, and reference books covering social history, natural history, and many other subjects. […] Messines Bookshop is proud to be one of seven bookshops that make up Featherston Booktown. Its specialist focus as a military bookshop, is linked to the military history of Featherston. In fact the name, Messines, demonstrates the sister town relationship with Messines in Flanders where troops trained at the Featherston Army Camp fought – and won – their first major battle of the First World War. […] Messines Bookshop, located online and in militarily historic Featherston Booktown, within New Zealand's Wairarapa Valley, is a mecca for all interested in military history across the ages. We buy and sell rare, second hand and new books" (https://www.booktown.org.nz/bookstores; lesedato 20.08.26).

"The first Bulgarian book village in Chelopek (a picturesque Bulgarian village, in the foothills of Vratsa Balkan, the hometown of the Baba Iliytsa – a heroine of a work of the Patriarch of Bulgarian Literature Ivan Vazov) […] The village is famous for its cultural-historical heritage and natural landmarks, local hospitality, vivid community, and a range of festivals. […] In November 2019 Chelopek gained International

Organisation of Booktowns full membership." (https://internationalbooktowns.org/chelopek-bulgaria/; lesedato 20.08.26)

"The medieval village of Ureña [i Spania] has a population of just over 200, yet it has breathed new life into its historic architecture by converting old buildings into a series of unique bookstores. Strolling through the town's narrow stone alleys, visitors can lose themselves in a curated world of rare finds and classic Spanish literature." (Rosanna Carrizzo i https://www.thewomtravel.com/great-britain/book-town.html; lesedato 30.09.26)

"Bellprat, Catalonia, Spain. In many ways, this small village is the ideal book town. It is in a beautiful rural setting in Catalonia's Anoia region, yet only 90 km from Barcelona. It has an appealing medieval centre and its population is enthusiastic about throwing open its doors to book-loving visitors. Bellprat is also the first book town in Catalonia (the second in Spain, after Urueña)." (Johnson 2018)

"Óbidos [i Portugal] is a beautiful, historic hilltop town with a wall that encloses a compact medieval centre filled with cobbled streets and traditional houses. The town – just over an hour north of Lisbon […] stands out from most other book towns in that it didn't open new bookshops; many stores have simply added bookselling to their business. So, the local art galleries sell art books, the Óbidos organic market has shelves of cookbooks behind its fresh fruit and vegetables, and the museums stock history, interior design and heritage titles, according to their individual focus. […] The Literary Man hotel, home to 30 guestrooms – and 50,000 books. […] One of the most stunning bookshops is the Grande Livraria de Santiago, inside the town's 13th-century church next to Óbidos castle. Books in various languages are piled on former altars, and bookshelves have replaced pews. O Bichinho do Conto (Estrada dos Casais Brancos) is the country's first bookshop devoted to children's titles, and is in a former primary school. Óbidos hosts a major international literary festival, Folio, attracting highly regarded authors such as Salman Rushdie and VS Naipaul and featuring reading marathons, concerts and screenings. Other projects include a scheme for turning abandoned houses into live-work spaces for writers, artists and other creative entrepreneurs." (Johnson 2018)

"Clunes is located a 90 minutes drive from Melbourne, Australia, and was the site of the first gold strike in Victoria in the mid-1800's. Now a vibrant town of around 1800 inhabitants, with a majority intact 1800's main street. In 2007 the first Booktown for a Day was held attracting over 6,000 visitors. Since then Clunes Booktown Festival has run as a weekend event, held annually in May. Over 130 book traders from around Australia descend on the town and set up shop for the weekend. Street entertainment, food and wine, music, writer's talks and workshops add to the festivities. In April

2012 Clunes gained International Organisation of Book Towns membership, becoming the 15th International Booktown and the only Book Town in Australia. Clunes hosted the International Organisation of Book Towns General Assembly in 2018." (https://internationalbooktowns.org/clunes-australia/; lesedato 20.08.26)

Langkawi i Malaysia ble den 18. bokbyen i verden og den første i Sørøst-Asia. Landsbyen ligger i et naturområde og hadde seks store bygninger med bøker før bokbyen ble nedlagt [i 2012] på grunn av for få besøkende og lav omsetning (https://www. langkawi-insight.com/langkawi_0000a9.htm; lesedato 20.08.26). "Located at one side of Lubuk Semilang Recreational Park at the foothill of Gunung Raya, the idea was to create a book village covering a vast stretch of area in a wonderful forested parkland within lush greenery and nature. Several buildings spaced out from each other and with traditional Malaysian architectures were built on this hilly terrain. They housed and exhibited thousands of books of wide range of subjects and interest, and the project Kampung Buku Malaysia (meaning Malaysia Book Village) was finally launched sometime in December 1997. […] There are six such massive buildings that exhibit books of all kinds – new, second-hand, rare and even antiquarian books. As a book lover, you not only get to read the books, you can even buy them at reasonable prices. In fact some second-hand and rare books are being sold at very cheap prices. […] There are more than 500 numbers of such rare books in this section, some are more than 100 years old. […] So what kind of books can you expect at the Langkawi International Book Village? The range is wide ... travel, languages, Europe and Asian culture, literature, sports, gender studies, Arabic literature, religious, children's books ... the range is literally vast." (Raj Bhattacharya i https://www.langkawi-insight.com/langkawi_0000a9.htm; lesedato 30.09.26)

"The village Borrby in the south east area Österlen in Sweden fulfills all the expectations of a member of the International Book Towns Organization. […] Through the Swedish Antiquary Organization even more antiquarians have shown interest in opening new shops, mostly extensions from their on other places around the country well established shops. […] We will also increase the interest of literature by cooperating with local schools, the municipality and different organizations in the area. By organizing more events around literature and books we can also increase the interest for the local history and culture […] The Borrby Book Town also has organized a special book weekend every month throughout the whole year. It is a weekend when all antiquaries are open, specific events take place and a performance, lecture or discussion evening around books." (https://borrby-bokby.se/borrby-bokby-in-english-please/; lesedato 20.08.26)

Fjærland i Sogndal kommune er en bokby som inkluderer "eit titals bruktbok-forretningar og antikvariat […] I småhus langs strandkanten i Mundal finst det 4000

hyllemeter med bøker. Husa har tidlegare vore ferjeventerom, fjøs, bank, fryseri og postlokale. Den norske bokbyen i Fjærland vart opna 23. juni 1996 av kulturminister Åse Kleveland. Det var den åttande bokbyen i Europa, den første i Norden. Initiativet kom frå bygdeutvalet i Fjærland, eit samfunn med 300 fastbuande. Drivkreftene var hotelleigar Marit Orheim Mauritzen, landhandlar Barbara Vangsnes og ekteparet Kari og Claus Kvamme. Den norske bokbyen sel bruktbøker heile året, på nettet og i fleire bokbutikkar i Mundal, Fjærland. Nokre av bokutsala er kombinerte med kafé, husflidsutsal, suvenirbutikk og kunstgalleri. Nettbutikken er open alle dagar medan bokutsala i Fjærland er opne kvar dag frå mai-sep. Både sesongopning- og avslutning vert markert. […] Rundt jonsok kvart år arrangerer bokbyen ei "boknatt" med ymse arrangement og mange tilreisande, både bokkjøparar og bokseljarar. Ideen fekk bokbyen frå Nederland. Bokbyen har òg andre arrangement, foredrag og møte med forfattarar." (https://www.visit norway.no/listings/den-norske-bokbyen-fj%C3%A6rland/109137/; lesedato 22.03. 23)

"Bokbyen Tvedestrand er en av verdens bokbyer, som er små byer som kjennetegnes av mange bokutsalg og sterk bokkultur. I Tvedestrand finner du noen av Norges fremste antikvariater og flere bokutsalg, i tillegg til bibliotek og forlag. Det er også et bredt utvalg litterære arrangementer hele året. Foreningen Bokbyen Tvedestrand er organisert som en frivillig forening som skal være en paraply for markedsføring av Bokbyens virksomheter og arrangementer og bidra til å øke interessen for litteratur og bokkultur. Vi jobber også for å fremme produksjonen av litteratur og Tvedestrand som en by å besøke. Foreningen mottar noe kommunal og fylkeskommunal støtte. Vi ledes av et styre, som arbeider på frivillig basis. Vi har ingen ansatte, men det jobber mange kompetente mennesker i bokutsalg, bibliotek og forlag." (https://www. bokbyentvedestrand.com/; lesedato 22.03.23) I Tvedestrand finnes forlaget Bokbyen Forlag.

"Bøker på brygga, bokhyller på busstoppene, koselige bokkafeer, og til og med et eget bokhotell! Og ikke minst, antikvariater fulle av bokskatter på ulike språk samt spennende litteraturarrangementer og -festivaler. Bokelskere bør ta turen til Fjærland og Tvedestrand i sommer. […] En bokby er en liten by eller et tettsted som har et stort antall bokutsalg, og da kanskje særlig bruktbokhandler. Den første bokbyen var landsbyen Hay-on-Wye i Wales, der Richard Booth i 1961 begynte å selge trailerlass av bruktbøker fra den nedlagte brannstasjonen. Hay er nå kjent av litteraturelskere verden over, og huser også den verdenskjente litteraturfestivalen Hay Literary Festival hver vår. Fenomenet har siden spredt seg til alle verdens hjørner, selv om de fleste bokbyene foreløpig ligger i Europa. […] Den første av Norges to bokbyer så dagens lys i 1995. Mundal, sentrum i den vesle bygda Fjærland ved Sognefjorden, har rundt 4 hyllekilometer med bøker til salgs. Det meste er bruktbøker, og også de titalls bokutsalgene er basert på gjenbruk – her finner du bøker i tidligere fergeventerom,

fjøs, bank, fryseri og postkontor. Gigantiske Tusund og ei natt er det eneste utsalget som er bygd spesielt for å huse bøker […] Bokbyen i Fjærland er åpen fra mai til september, men nettbutikkene har selvsagt åpent hele året." (https://www.visit norway.no/aktiviteter-og-attraksjoner/kunst-kultur/litteratur/bokbyer/; lesedato 25.06.26)

"Befinner du deg på Sørlandet, bør du legge turen innom Tvedestrand, som omtaler seg selv som "en gullgruve for bokormer". "Gleden over bøker, gleden i bøker, gleden av bøker. Når vi åpner dem, åpner de oss", sa Lars Saabye Christensen i sin tale under bokbyåpningen. Og Bokbyen ved Skagerrak har åpnet for mer enn bare bokutsalg. De har også en rekke arrangementer, festivaler og guidede turer knyttet til bøker og litteratur gjennom hele året." (https://www.visitnorway.no/aktiviteter-og-attraksjoner/ kunst-kultur/litteratur/bokbyer/; lesedato 25.06.26)

Torup i Danmark "is unusual even for a book town. There are two parts to the Danish community of around 300 residents: the old part (a village since the 11th century); and a new zone that, since the 1990s, has been home to an eco-village called Økosamfundet Dyssekilde. […] In 2010 Torup became a member of the International Organisation of Book Towns and in 2011 the restored former railway station, dating from 1916, became the book town's headquarters. There is now a bookstore on the ground floor as well as local food for sale and a bicycle rental station. Visitors will find mini bookshops in garages, a workman's hut, a disused stable, a farm entrance, in front of the church and by the entrance to the supermarket. There are plenty of ingenious shelving ideas too: books stacked in bread boxes and milk crates. Some operate on a self-service honesty basis. The association also runs a yearly Nordic Book Festival, with talks and readings from established authors, along with live music." (Johnson 2018)

"The International Organisation of Book Towns […] The aims of the organisation are to:

1. Raise public awareness of book towns and stimulate interest by giving information via the internet and by organising an International Book Town Festival every second year;

2. Strengthen the rural economy and enhance the quality of book towns by exchanging knowledge, skills and know-how between the book towns and their individual sellers and other businesses;

3. Undertake other activities which can serve the interests of book towns and strengthen independent businesses in book towns, e.g. by stimulating the use of information technology;

4. By these means, help to maintain regional and national cultural heritage, and to raise international public awareness of such heritage.
Members of the organisation may be associations, organisations, local governments, businesses or individuals in book towns."
(https://internationalbooktowns.org/governance/; lesedato 20.08.26)

Litteraturliste (for hele leksikonet): https://www.litteraturogmedieleksikon.no/gallery/litteraturliste.pdf

Alle artiklene i leksikonet er tilgjengelig på https://www.litteraturogmedieleksikon.no