



Nordic Studies

Slides: <https://z.umn.edu/nordic2>

ESS European Language and Area Studies Workshop for Librarians
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Geographic Terms



“Scandinavia”

DK, NO, SE

(sometimes FIN, IS and also Faroe Islands Greenland as part of DK)

“Nordic”

DK, FIN, IS, NO, SE

(sometimes Faroe Islands and Greenland). Others include the Baltics.



Academic Fields and Trends

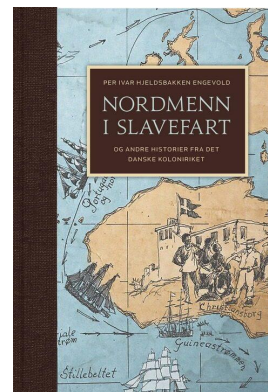
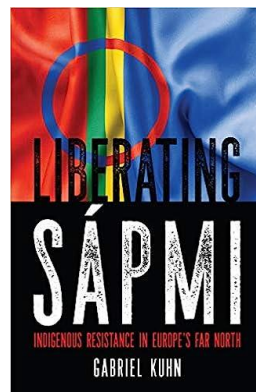
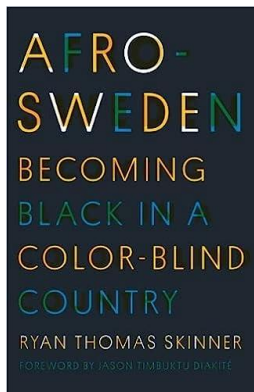
Finnish and Scandinavian languages considered “less-commonly taught”

Handful of programs at universities and colleges

Disciplines outside of language and literature: anthropology, archeology, film & media, folklore, gender studies, genealogy, history, politics, sociology.

Emerging areas:

- Sámi
- Colonization and involvement in African slave trade, on Greenland, etc.
- BIPOC and other marginalized groups, immigration



Resources for Learning More

[Nordics.info](#): articles, podcasts, videos, biographic information & more

[Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study](#) (SASS): preeminent scholarly organization; [newsletter](#)

[History of Nordic Women's Literature](#): articles

Lindskog, Annika, and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen, eds. 2020. [Introduction to Nordic Cultures](#). London: UCL Press.

[Scandinavica: an International Journal of Scandinavian Studies](#): scholarly journal covering the literature and culture of all the Nordic countries.

All listed above are open access.



Vendors

English-language:



- Set up notifications
- Can also use [LC call number ranges](#) to search

Vernacular:



- Erasmus and Harrassowitz: all Nordic languages
- East View: Finnish-language materials
- Harrassowitz: Scandinavian and Finnish author lists

Publishers & Series

Univ. of Washington Press

- [New Directions in Scandinavian Studies](#)
- [Nordic Film Classics](#)

Cornell Univ. Press

- [Islandica](#)

Brepols

- [Acta Scandinavica](#)

Univ. of Minn. Press

Univ. of Wisc. Press

[Norvik Press](#)

[New Nordic Press](#)

University of Southern
Denmark's Press

- [Studies in Scandinavian Languages and Literatures](#)
(English and Danish)

[Gyldendal](#): Danish publ.

[Otava](#): Finnish publ.

[Cappelen Damm](#): Norw. publ.

[Norstedts](#): Swed. publ.

All university presses cover Nordic Studies to some degree.

Nordic languages , esp. Norwegian and Swedish, have remained in top 10 most translated languages in US literary market for past decade.

Collection Development Resources

English-language promotional sites from Nordic countries:

[Books from Denmark](#)

[Books from Norway](#)

[FarLit: Literature from the Faroe Islands](#)

[Promotion of Icelandic Literature Abroad](#) (Icelandic Literature Center)

[Publications from FILI \(Finnish Literature Exchange\)](#)

[Swedish Book Review](#)

[Resources for College Libraries](#) – subscription database has core title lists for colleges

Reviews from *CHOICE*, *Library Journal* (available in GOBI and OASIS), *Publisher's Weekly*, *New York Review of Books*, etc.

Reviews in Journals:

- [Scandinavian Studies](#) (Subs.)
- [Scandinavica](#) (OA)
- [The Year's Work in Modern Languages](#) (Subs.)

Databases

There are no commercial primary or secondary source databases focusing specifically on the Nordic countries.

Secondary: consult multidisciplinary subscription databases, such as [Anthropology Plus](#), [Historical Abstracts](#), [Linguistics & Language Behavior Abstracts](#), [MLA International Bibliography](#)

Primary Source Databases:

- [EuroDocs](#) (BYU): transcribed or translated documents for European countries. OA
- [Icelandic Saga Database](#): sagas in Old Norse and modern Icelandic with some translated into English. OA.
- [Project Runeberg](#): digital editions of classic Scandinavian literature in Nordic and other languages. OA.
- [Early European Books](#). Subscription resource.



Reference

National bibliographies, archives and other reference sources, see the [ESS Scandinavian Studies](#) guide and the full chapter in *Handbook for European Studies Librarians*

[Nordic Statistics database](#): from Nordic Council. OA.

Historical dictionaries for the Nordic countries in the “Historical Dictionaries of Europe” Rowman and Littlefield series

Sundholm, John, Isak Thorsen, Lars Gustaf Andersson, Olof Hedling, Gunnar Iversen, and Birgir Thor Møller. 2012. *Historical Dictionary of Scandinavian Cinema*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

Sjåvik, Jan. 2006. *Historical Dictionary of Scandinavian Literature and Theater*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

[Danish West-Indies](#) archive from the Royal Danish Archives



Suggestions for Scoping Collections

For determining user needs, look beyond language and literature departments to film and media studies, history, political science, sociology, anthropology, etc.

Consider which languages to collect. Just the main Scandinavian (Danish, Norwegian, Swedish) or also Finnish, Old Norse, Sámi, etc.

Be aware of cooperative collection development agreements as well as holdings of academic AND public libraries near you.

Libraries interested in smaller collections may want to:

- core titles and authors in vernacular
- focus on literature in translation
- only collect prize winners in vernacular/translation

Include works by BIPOC authors and other marginalized groups in your selections.

That's Not All

The Nordic Studies chapter also includes:

- Publishing landscape
- Prizes and awards
- Open Access
- Digital collections
- Archives, bibliographies, nat'l libraries
- News sources
- Museums, historical societies, local archives
- + More scholarly organizations, publishers, databases, reference



Handbook for European Studies Librarians

Brian Vetruba, Editor
Heidi Madden, Associate Editor

Humanities and social sciences librarians are increasingly called on to develop subject and collection development expertise outside their own academic background. This handbook will provide librarians new to collection development for regions of Europe and Eurasia key resources for collection development and offer guidance on working with faculty and students focusing on these areas.

Features three thematic sections:

- Resources and Tools for Regions of Europe
- Resources on Marginalized Groups
- Current Issues in European Studies Librarianship

This book includes thirty-one chapters written by experts in the field of European Studies.

Forthcoming Fall 2023

To be published online and for open access download at z.umn.edu/HESL

M LIBRARIES PUBLISHING

“Nordic Studies (Scandinavia and Finland)” by Brian Vetruba (UMN/UChicago), Hope Reilly (LC), Karen Hill (formerly at LC), Ashley Dickerson (LC)

Some Takeaways

European vendors can work with any sized budget (\$1,000 or \$10,000) They can also provide customized reports as well as “on the ground” expertise to assist you in selection.

Websites and resources from the Nordics will often have English interfaces compared to other parts of Europe.

Perusing promotional websites, such as Books from Norway, will give you a good overview of recent prominent titles.

Don't forget museums and heritage organizations for resources related to immigration from Nordic countries.

ESS's email list, the ESS Scandinavian Discussion Group, and the [ESS Scandinavian Studies guide](#) can be useful way to stay current and get help with tricky reference questions.

Giitu! Kiitos! Tack! Tak! Takk! (Thanks!)

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