

RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND

Infrastruktur för forskning

Fil. dr Jenny Langkjaer Arbetsrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek Elektronvägen 2 SE-14149 Huddinge ORCID:	Arbetsrörelsens minne. Digitalisering av års- och verksamhetsberättelser från svenska fackförbund, 1880-2018 Labour's memory. Digitization of annual and financial reports of blue-collar worker unions 1880-2018 in Sweden
Anslagsförvaltare / Grant administrator Arbetsrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek	

Startdatum / Start date: 2020-01-01 Slutdatum / Final date: 2022-12-31	Ämneskod / subject code 1: Historia Ämneskod / subject code 2: Ekonomisk historia Ämneskod / subject code 3: Statsvetenskap (exklusive studier av offentlig förvaltning och globaliseringsstudier)
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Sökta medel / Applied funding

Budgetår / Budget year 2020	Lokaler (ej del av sökt belopp)	Indirekta kostnader (ej del av sökt belopp) Indirect costs (not part of applied funding)	Lönekostnader / Salaries 1.166.899	Drift / Operating costs 1.287.600	Totalt år / Total (year) 2020 2.454.499
Personal / Staff (icke forskande personal / Non-research staff: 280% årsarbetstid)		Disp.år / Year of PhD exam	Årsarbetstid / Annual working time	LKP / Employer's social-insurance contribution top- up	Månadslön (heltid) Monthly salary (full time)
Hast, Anders (Universitetslektor), 660428-7513		2004	20%	42%	56.400
Langkjaer, Jenny (Fil. dr), 780703-0262		2011	100%	42%	40.000
Neunsinger, Silke (Docent), 701016-0922		2001	20%	0%	0
Simonson, Örjan (Fil. dr), 640321-1912		1999	40%	42%	43.000
Budgetår / Budget year 2021	Lokaler (ej del av sökt belopp)	Indirekta kostnader (ej del av sökt belopp) Indirect costs (not part of applied funding)	Lönekostnader / Salaries 1.195.526	Drift / Operating costs 1.161.600	Totalt år / Total (year) 2021 2.357.126
Personal / Staff (icke forskande personal / Non-research staff: 280% årsarbetstid)		Disp.år / Year of PhD exam	Årsarbetstid / Annual working time	LKP / Employer's social-insurance contribution top- up	Månadslön (heltid) Monthly salary (full time)
Hast, Anders (Universitetslektor), 660428-7513		2004	20%	42%	57.800
Langkjaer, Jenny (Fil. dr), 780703-0262		2011	100%	42%	41.000
Neunsinger, Silke (Docent), 701016-0922		2001	20%	0%	0
Simonson, Örjan (Fil. dr), 640321-1912		1999	40%	42%	44.000
Budgetår / Budget year 2022	Lokaler (ej del av sökt belopp)	Indirekta kostnader (ej del av sökt belopp) Indirect costs (not part of applied funding)	Lönekostnader / Salaries 1.224.154	Drift / Operating costs 1.188.600	Totalt år / Total (year) 2022 2.412.754
Personal / Staff (icke forskande personal / Non-research staff: 280% årsarbetstid)		Disp.år / Year of PhD exam	Årsarbetstid / Annual working time	LKP / Employer's social-insurance contribution top- up	Månadslön (heltid) Monthly salary (full time)
Hast, Anders (Universitetslektor), 660428-7513		2004	20%	42%	59.200
Langkjaer, Jenny (Fil. dr), 780703-0262		2011	100%	42%	42.000
Neunsinger, Silke (Docent), 701016-0922		2001	20%	0%	0
Simonson, Örjan (Fil. dr), 640321-1912		1999	40%	42%	45.000

Total projektkostnad / Total project cost: **7.224.379**

Budgetkommentar / Comments on the Budget

In addition to salaries mentioned in the budget operating costs per budget year:

2020

Technical equipment 200 000 SEK

Workshop 70 000 SEK

Non-research staff, Uppsala University Library: 30 % - 129 600 SEK

Non-research staff, Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University:
50 % - 216 000 SEK

Non-research staff, Popular Movements' Archive in Uppsala FAC, 100 % - 336
000 SEK

Non-research staff, Swedish Labour Movement Archives and Library, 100 % -
336 000

2021

Technical equipment 50 000 SEK

Workshop 70 000 SEK

Non-research staff, Uppsala University Library: 30 % - 132 000 SEK

Non-research staff, Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University:
50 % - 220 800 SEK

Non-research staff, Popular Movements' Archive in Uppsala (FAC, 100 % - 344
400 SEK

Non-research staff, Swedish Labour Movement Archives and Library, 100 % -
344 400 SEK

2022

Technical equipment 50 000 SEK

Workshop 70 000 SEK

Non-research staff, Uppsala University Library: 30 % - 136 200 SEK

Non-research staff, Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University:
50 % - 226 800 SEK

Non-research staff, Popular Movements' Archive in Uppsala (FAC, 100 % - 352
800 SEK

Non-research staff, Swedish Labour Movement Archives and Library, 100 % -
352 800 SEK

Sammanfattning på svenska / Summary in Swedish

Arbetarrörelsen spelade en avgörande roll för den svenska demokratins utveckling. Inte minst var fackförbunden viktiga vid utformandet av välfärdsstaten och den svenska modellen för arbetsmarknaden. Fackförbunden och Landsorganisationen har också haft ett stort internationellt inflytande. Deras arkiv erbjuder en unik potential, också i en internationell jämförelse, att skapa långa sammanhängande serier av dokumentation över vad som är den mest betydelsefulla civila sammanslutningen i Sverige. För att åstadkomma detta behöver materialet digitaliseras och bli digitalt sökbart.

Projektet avser att digitalisera verksamhetsberättelser och årsredovisningar från lokala, regionala, nationella och internationella fackliga organisationer, från 1880-talet och fram till 2018. Det digitaliserade materialet kommer att göras sökbart genom fri textsökning och ett index, som utvecklas i samarbete med forskare inom fältet. Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek (ARAB) och Folkrörelsearkivet för Uppsala län (FAC) ansvarar gemensamt för att databasen utvecklas, bevaras och tillgängliggörs för forskare. Det ger institutionella förutsättningar för en varaktig drift och god tillgänglighet, både i Sverige och internationellt. Tillsammans erbjuder ARAB och FAC ett rikt arkivbestånd från lokal till internationell nivå. Det kommer också finnas goda möjligheter för ytterligare länsarkiv att i ett senare skede komplettera från sina bestånd.

Sammanfattning på engelska / Summary in English

The labour movement has played a crucial role in the development of Swedish democracy. Trade unions were especially important in building the welfare state and in shaping the structure of the labour market. The Swedish trade unions and their union confederation, Landsorganisationen (LO), also play an important role internationally. Their archives offer a unique potential to create comprehensive time series on the mobilization and organization of the largest organization in Sweden's civil society. In order to accomplish this research goal, the material needs to be digitized and made searchable.

This project will create a collection of digitised annual and financial reports from local, regional, national and international trade union organisations for the period 1880 to 2018. The digitised material will be made searchable and indexed in collaboration with labour history experts. The database will be developed, stored and made available for researchers by the Swedish Labour Movement's Archive and Library and the Popular Movements' Archive in Uppsala. With two archival institutions performing the task, this data will become easily and permanently available to the research community in Sweden and abroad. Combining holdings in ARAB and FAC enables us to create a unique infrastructure that connects the local, regional, national and international levels, and creates an infrastructure to which other regional social movement archives in the rest of Sweden can add similar material.

Projektbeskrivning / Project description

The labour movement has played a crucial role in the development of Swedish democracy, the development of the welfare state and shaping the structure of the labour market. Most Swedish workers have been members of a trade union which means that these organizations include much of Swedish society. The strong position of the unions and their umbrella organization *Landsorganisationen* (LO) has played a significant role in the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU, now ICTU) and the International Trade Secretariats (ITS, now Global Unions). The unions have also supported the Chilean CUT, Polish *Solidarnosc* (Misgeld & Molin) or South African FOSATU/COSATU (Sjölander).

This important role at home and abroad has generated comprehensive and uniquely rich archival material (Hilson et al.). However, using these archives for research is costly because of their size and they are not digitally searchable. A large share of the material is handwritten. Together these sources offer unique potential to create long time series on the mobilization and organization of the largest associations in civil society in Sweden. This material could easily be combined with other sources, but only if the material is digitised and made searchable.

This project aims to take important steps towards making archival sources accessible for a large set of researchers. **The project will create a collection of digitised annual and financial reports from local, regional, national and international trade union organizations for the period 1880 to 2018.** The material will be made searchable and indexed in collaboration with labour history experts. The database will be developed, stored and made available for researchers by the Swedish Labour Movement's Archive and Library (ARAB) and the Popular Movements' Archive in Uppsala (FAC), in cooperation with Uppsala University Library (UB) and the Division of Visual Information and Interaction at the Department of Information Technology (DIT). Of course, individual research projects could develop similar methods for data collection and analysis, but these are very costly procedures for individual research projects. Having two archives perform the task will make this data readily available to the research community in Sweden and abroad.

Cooperation between ARAB and FAC enables us to create a unique infrastructure that connects the local, regional, national and international levels. ARAB also has a large collection of national archives. FAC has local and regional archives that show the development in a middle-sized industrial and academic town.

The project serves multiple purposes:

- 1) This collection can be used to create time series over more than 130 years which will allow systematic long-term studies of the organizational and financial development of these organizations, the content of trade union struggles, the

chosen methods of struggle, their membership, their role in society and politics, the economic development and the changing use of language.

- 2) This repository will create a unique qualitative entry into the large archival collections of trade union material in Swedish archives.
- 3) This repository enables researchers to make multi-level analyses of the union movement and follow specific topics from the local to the international level and vice versa, and to analyse the role of these entanglements.
- 4) The project will create an infrastructure which will allow other regional archives in Sweden to add annual and financial reports from their union archives to the database. In the long run even foreign national and local material can be added to the repository.

MULTI-LAYERED AND LONG-TERM STUDIES

Digital humanities is situated at the intersection of computing or digital technologies and the humanities where archives have only started to provide digital resources. Labour history has not been in the forefront of digital humanities, but databases on strikes such as the one at the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (IISH), and new collections of wage data in Sweden, as found in the recently started project by economic historian Erik Bengtsson at Lund University are important contributions. This project is unique in that it allows for systematic time-series in space and across sectors and permits systematic qualitative and quantitative studies.

Swedish labour history has shown a tendency towards in-depth studies at the expense of long-term and multi-layered or larger spatial studies (see, however Evans & Rydén). During the last 15 years the emerging interest in global labour history has shifted focus from the national to the international and transnational levels. However, these studies have been criticised for a perspective stuck in a focus on the interaction among nations or between international organizations and nations. As part of a debate on global history and the epistemologies of global history, the local as space – e.g., in migration history – or the local as a site for micro-historical analysis has come into focus and the concept translocality has been used to include individuals in studies of larger global and universal processes (De Vito & Gerritsen; Neunsinger 2019). This infrastructure project will enable researchers to carry out translocal studies systematically.

Histories of Swedish trade unions have often focused on either the national or the local level with little interest in the changing interaction between them (see, however, Salmonsson; Bengtsson). A few examples, such as Andrew Scott's study on Australian unions and the influence of transnational contacts with Sweden, or studies such as those by Knotter (2018), Carew et al (2000), van der Linden (2010), Rodriguez Garcia (2010) and Neunsinger (2018), show the importance of Swedish unions for activism elsewhere in the world. Some studies have also focused on the connection between the national Swedish level and the international (Misgeld; Misgeld & Molin; Sjölander; Thörnqvist), and studies have also dealt with Nordic collaboration between trade unions (Blidberg;

Österberg). There have been comparisons between trade union activism in Sweden and in other countries (Hilson 2001 & 2006). There is a lack of studies of the relationship between the local and the international levels. For example, Swedish trade unions collected huge amounts of money for workers in Spain during the Spanish Civil War and international and transnational support was rendered during the Swedish General Strike in 1909 (Schiller). This collection of material will enable researchers to study how the discussion between the different levels of the scale changed and how local unions reacted to advice and decisions from the national level concerning bargaining, wage levels and membership. In which ways did the local issues affect the national and international levels? Can we find periods of agreement between the levels, and can we find specific points in times of discontent? Did the language change over time and between levels?

Studies have often focused on single trade unions or the LO, but the development of trade unions is affected by the different developments of sectors. Although the municipal workers union, *Kommunal*, is the largest union in terms of members, the strong position of *IF Metall* in the LO is related to the strong position of the export industry in Sweden. This infrastructure will allow researchers to make systematic comparisons between the different unions in Sweden.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We have chosen to digitise the material of trade union organizations active in the Swedish labour movement as well as the related international trade union organizations. The lion's share of both ARAB's and FAC's holdings are found in the archives of trade union organizations. The ARAB collection is unique. Founded in 1902 by the Swedish labour movement, it has become a model for similar archives in the Nordic countries. The comprehensive nature of the material and long series have been furthered by the limited prosecution of activists in the labour movement, the protection of archives during wars, and the fact that Sweden has been a country for political refugees. Foreign material has also been included. (Hilson et al; Grass; Grass et al). ARAB's library contains the printed reports of all blue-collar workers' unions in Sweden. Union archives also comprise a large part of FAC's holdings, containing over 500 archives of local and regional organizations since 1885. These unions represent a diversity of sectors, including typical sectors such as the printing industry in a university city; the steel industry; saw mills and agriculture in the countryside of Uppland. It is necessary to sign agreements with all active trade unions about the digitisation of their materials. The union are members of the archives and, as such, interested in collaboration about their history. However, even for active trade unionists, as it has become more difficult to find time to visit the archives, and digitisation will make access to their history easier.

Initially, we have chosen to combine these local, regional, national and international sources and aim at multilayered, longitudinal time series. For this purpose we have chosen to digitise the annual and financial reports of trade union organizations of blue collar workers.

The collection will provide an easily accessible entry to trade union history. It gives a quick overview of the most important topics and economic decisions of

the organizations, as well as the basic data on the number of members. The financial reports present an overview of income and spending and of how assets and liabilities were held. The annual and financial reports will also allow systematic studies of the rise, fall and mergers of trade unions in Sweden. In most of these cases researchers will also need to supplement with the use the minutes of these organizations (Jonsson & Neunsinger), but the reports included in the repository will provide a door-opener to the archives of the organizations. The material also contains information about the most important topics dealt with during each year, and in many cases the national annual reports include very short reports about local development.

Secondly, although it would be desirable to digitise all material left by the unions, this is not feasible. We have chosen these series of reports for four reasons:

These documents are of central importance to the unions. They contain information on the most important events during each year for the organizations. They also demonstrate how unions responsibly used the financial resources, mainly from member fees, in a responsible way. Therefore they also reflected financial strategies.

The reports in Sweden have similar format and content across organizations and time, which makes it possible to obtain similar information from the material and hence to create time series.

We know from our daily work with researchers that these documents are highly valued by our visitors. Thus, there is a demand among researchers for these documents.

Because of the importance and the regular use of these documents by our visitors, the paper copies are at risk of being damaged.

The focus on annual and financial reports is due to the similarity of the organizations, and the long tradition of annual auditing of activities and economy that was part of the well-established democratic practice during annual meetings.

Thirdly, the material will be digitised and made searchable. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) will be used, a technology that enables us to convert different types of documents, such as scanned paper documents, PDF files or images captured by a digital camera into editable and searchable data. This project will also use OCR technique to make the handwritten texts searchable. This is more time-consuming and more difficult, as it will be necessary to develop algorithms to recognize different handwritings from the same period, but also to recognize words although abbreviated or misspelled. This means that the software for handwritten text recognition (HTR) will be developed throughout the entire project. The result will be generic for future digitisation projects of handwriting for the same period. Annual and financial reports since 2000 are published in digitised form and will first need to be converted into portable document format (PDF) and Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) for long-time preservation and will, as such, be searchable.

Fourthly, we need to index the entire digitised corpus of text. This will be done in

collaboration with the researchers and the IT developers. The dept. of Political Science and the dept. of Economic History at Uppsala University are involved in this part of the project.

Fifthly, the entire digitised material will be registered and archived in our e-archive systems. Archival descriptions together with an index and free text search engine, will be published and maintained on the platform *Alvin*, operated by a consortium, including Uppsala University Library. Digitised documents open to public access, will also be published and preserved on *Alvin*. Due to legislation, especially the General Data Protection Regulation that protects the integrity of personal data, some of the digitized documents will be temporarily closed to public access but are available to researchers whose projects have been accepted by the ethics committees.

RELATION TO OTHER ARCHIVES

Our infrastructure project is unique: According to our knowledge there is currently no existing repository for the kind of materials which we want to make available. Only a few attempts have been made to create time series on qualitative material. The IISH in Amsterdam is well-known for its quantitative databases on the labour movement. Our colleagues from the Norwegian Labor Movement Archives and Library have digitised annual reports, minutes and principal agreements of the Norwegian labour movement including both *Arbejderpartiet* and *LO*, but this material presents the national level and includes only printed materials. Earlier the main focus on making annual reports accessible has previously been on companies. Other types of organizations are scarcely represented digitally, especially when it comes to older materials from before 1990.

ARAB works closely with the Nordic Labour movement archives and libraries and is a member of the International Association of Labour History Institutes (IALHI). This will allow us to create the infrastructure in dialogue with our colleagues from labour history institutes worldwide. ARAB cooperates also with the IISH, which keeps the records of the social democratic ICFTU and the Archive of Social Democracy of the Friedrich Ebert-Foundation (AdsD) in Bonn, which keeps the records of the ITS. This enables us, whenever necessary, to fill the gaps in the holdings of the international material at ARAB. This project will be of interest to the member organizations of the IALHI with similar holdings. ARAB and FAC are well-connected to the regional popular movement archives in Sweden as members of the Association of Swedish Archives.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

It is an intentional choice to regard the digitised collection, not as a closed database, but as part of ARAB's and FAC's holdings, integrating it in their general archival descriptions and employing common international standards for object and archival descriptions. This will improve its lifetime, interoperability and the future additions to the collection. ARAB and FAC will remain responsible for the long- term digital preservation after the completion of the project. The project will develop text recognition and search index for generic

use. The collection is open ended, making it possible in the future to use for accruals of digitised and “born” digital material.

PROJECT PLAN

1. Signing of agreements with all active unions, Jan. 2020.
2. Purchase of relevant equipment for scanning and transcriptions, Jan. 2020 and scanning of documents, Jan. 2020 – Oct. 2022
3. Development of algorithms for HTR and indexing, Mar. 2020 – Oct. 2022
4. Delivery of scanned and indexed material to Alvin, development of search engines, start 2022.
5. Workshops with relevant researchers will take place on an annual base at ARAB, start 2020.

The project will be led by Jenny Langkjaer, archivist at ARAB (100% monthly salary), Örjan Simonson, manager of FAC (30% monthly) and Anders Hast, Department of Information Technology (20% monthly salary). The project also needs technical assistants for the task of scanning and transcribing, one at each of the archives. In addition, the DIT and Uppsala University Library will need to make adaptations and develop new applications for Alvin. For this purpose, we will need external consultant services to design an interface for the search engine and the collection. In order to adapt and ensure compatibility between the repositories there will be a cost of 300 000 SEK.

Silke Neunsinger, head of ARAB’s research department, will ensure the scientific quality of the work as part of her ordinary tasks at ARAB (20%) together with the following researchers: Professor Emeritus Maths Isacson Department of Economic History, Uppsala University; Dr Jenny Jansson, Department of Political Science, Uppsala University; and Associate Professor Fredrik Sandgren, Department of Economic History, Uppsala University. This group will function as an advisory board for indexing. In addition, the group will arrange annual workshops and conferences to bring together the international advisory board, as well as academics and archivists to discuss the projects and how the repository can be used for academic research and by unions themselves. For this purpose, we apply for 220 000 SEK to organize workshops on an annual basis.

The involved institutions are largely already equipped with necessary infrastructure, software and devices to pursue the project. Supplementary investment needs mostly concern the digitising stations at ARAB and FAC, the costliest being a scanner with a book cradle (150 000 SEK), one server computer at ARAB (50 000 SEK) and two full format cameras for repro photographing (70 000 SEK).

The project group has access to an advisory board which consist of archivists, librarians and researchers who have accepted to discuss the development of the project with us. Prof. Stefan Berger (Manager, Institut für soziale Bewegungen, Bochum); Prof. Dorothy Sue Cobble (Rutgers university); Prof. Geert van Goethem, (manager, AMSAB, Ghent); Shivangi Jaiswal (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, former content manager of the digital archive of the AILH); Prof. Knut Kjeldstadli (Oslo university), Dr Anja Kruke (manager, Archiv der

sozialen Demokratie, Bonn, president of IALHI); Prof. Marcel van der Linden (IISH); Gabriele Mohale (manager Historical papers, Wits University, Johannesburg); Dr Larissa Rosa Correa (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro); Dr Ole Martin Rønning and Frank Meyer (managers, ARBARK, Oslo); Prof. Andrew Scott (Deakin University, Melbourne), Henrik Summanen (Digisam) and Dr. Henk Wals (manager, IISH).

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