Embedded librarianship can probably be defined in many different ways. With this presentation, we at The Riksdag Library would like to share some experiences with you about our take on embedded librarianship and discuss our and yours experiences and views on this matter.

The Riksdag Library supports The Riksdag and the Riksdag Administration with information seeking where the library take on search queries. One of the frequent user groups that uses this service is The Research service of the Riksdag. The research service has around 35 employees, and complete around 1 700–2 000 often brief (around 2 weeks) investigations each year on behalf of the party secretariats and MPs.

However, the library and the research service do not belong to the same department in the Riksdag Administration and are thus situated in different places in the organisation. This means that there is also an actual physical distance between the two divisions. As you can see from the map, the library and the research service are situated several quarters from another. These two buildings are not connected via culverts as some of the buildings of the Riksdag are.

The communication between the research service and the library concerning these assignments of information seeking has been carried out mostly through e-mail and telephone. During this past year, the library, the research service and The Evaluation and Research Secretariat of the Riksdag have been assigned to develop a collaboration between the three departments. (The Evaluation and Research Secretariat is another division that also turns to the library for more systematic search queries, but not to the same extent as The Research Service, they are fewer employees, who complete around 5–10 extensive (around 10–12 months) evaluation or research investigations each year mostly only on behalf of a parliamentary committee.) As a part of this cooperation, embedded librarianship is currently being tried out between the library and The Research Service. In short this means that a librarian works at the research service two days a week (we take turns in a group of seven librarians), and that the research service has offered an office at their division where the embedded librarian can work. The embedded librarian also takes part in meetings at the research service where the assignments that the research service has received from the MPs and the party secretariats, are discussed.

This project started at the end of the past year and we have recently decided to continue to have an embedded librarian at the research service. The expectations of the function was among other things:

 -That the library could initiate search queries as early as possible and thus have an opportunity to plan the search query along other queries that may have been assigned to the library and have a better chance to deliver the results of the queries on time.

-The opportunity to be able to discuss the search query and ask related questions and get a better idea of the context of the assignment was also something that was expected.

-Also, being able to take part in some of the discussions held at the research service concerning their assignments was also something that was suggested could help the librarians to get a better general understanding of how the research service work and get a better understanding of their needs.

From the library's point of view we consider that these expectations have been met. Another aspect is that we to some extent also experience that other type pf questions have been raised, such as questions of access to certain databases and articles, and questions more of the character of "passing by your office and thought of something that we discussed earlier" are more common. Our experience is that the close physical proximity to our colleagues seems to impact the way we work together.

This example of a type of embedded librarianship can also raise questions about general collaboration in organisations. In a digital age, is there a risk that we diminish the impact of having close physical proximity to colleagues in certain work processes – or put another way, what is the added value in choosing close proximity to colleagues in search processes, or vice versa, what is the added value in choosing digital communication over a close physical proximity? We would like to discuss this with you in the form of the following questions:

1. Do you have any experiences of employing embedded librarian in certain processes? Has this added value to the work process?

2. What do you think about trying a digital solution in a case like this, which communication tools might be interesting to try in order to communicate ongoing search queries with users/colleagues located elsewhere in an organisation?