Library catalogue is not a community!

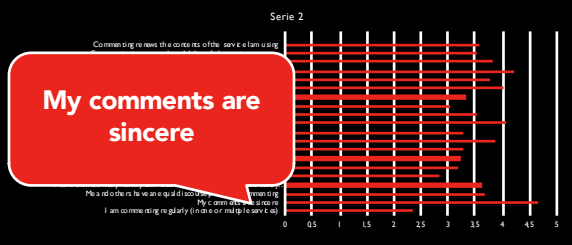
User contributions to online services of archives, libraries and museums

Isto Huvila
Department of ALM | Uppsala University
@ihuvila | www.istohuvila.se

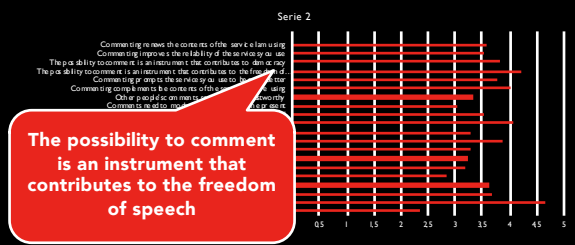
Pilot study

- Online survey
- Population
  - individuals who had commented or contributed at different online services provided or hosted by ALMs
- (n=) 38 respondents
  - mean age 45.9 years
  - 78.9% (30/38) female
  - 57.9% (22/38) with graduate degree
  - mean of self-perceived social class 6.1 (SD 1.9) on scale 1-10
  - 23.1% (9/38) of the respondents filled in the survey in Swedish and the rest in Finnish

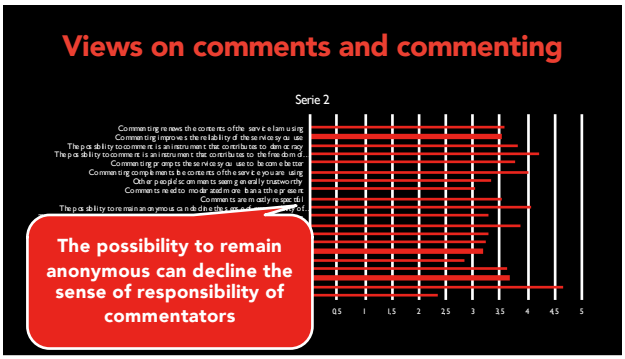
Views on comments and commenting



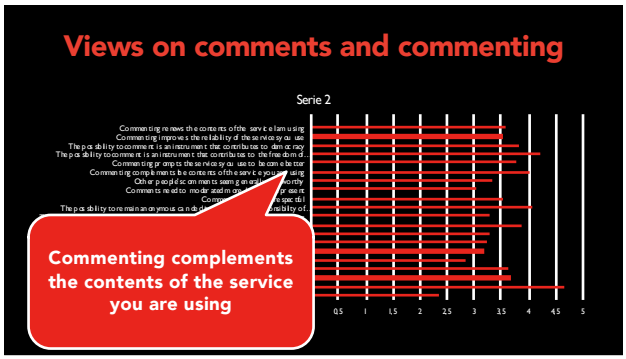
Views on comments and commenting



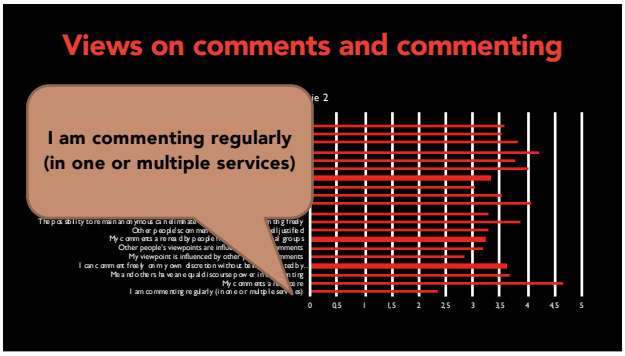
Views on comments and commenting



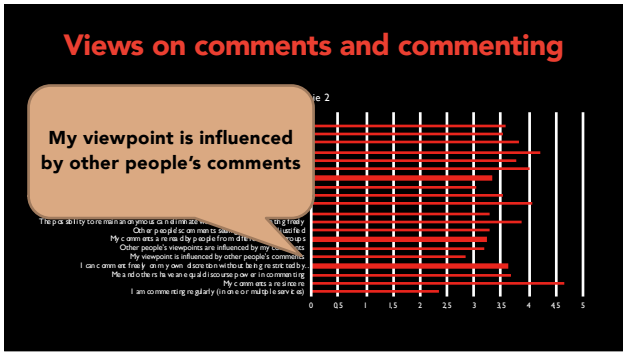
Views on comments and commenting



Views on comments and commenting

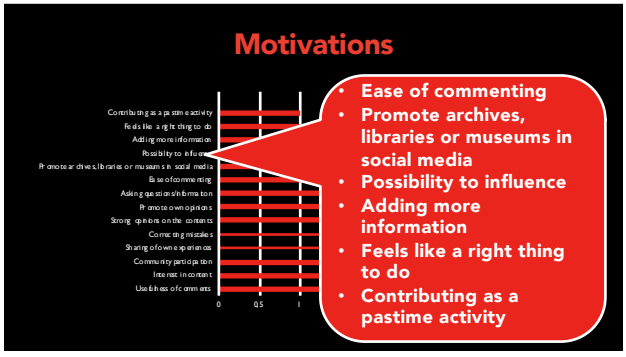


Views on comments and commenting



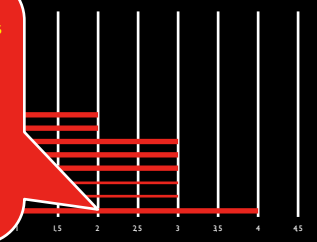
Motivations

Motivations

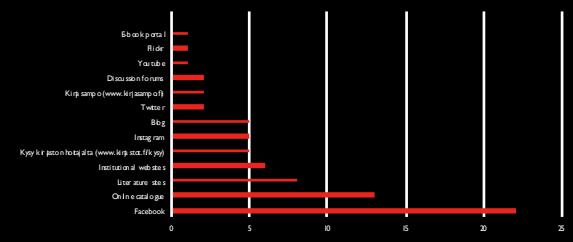


Motivations

- **Usefulness of comments**
- Interest in content
- Community participation
- Sharing of own experiences
- Correcting mistakes
- Strong opinions on the contents



Channels

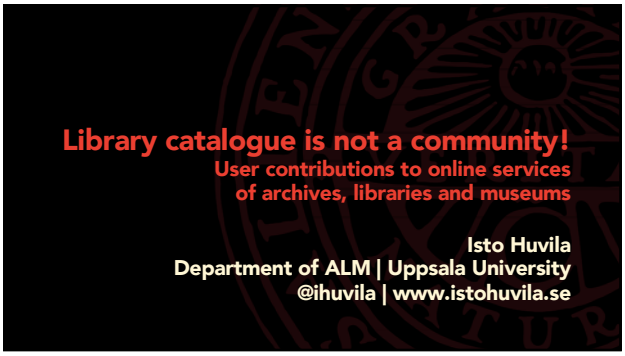


So what?

(unsurprisingly) a more systematic understanding of the motivations of contributing and commenting is needed.

commenting is (probably, rather) relevant

ALM institutions services are not (necessarily) relevant for contributions

Catalogue, service (etc.) ≠ community, public sphere (etc.)

**What is what?
Where is what?**