here has long been a concern about the research-practice gap within Library and Information Science (LIS). Several authors have highlighted the disconnection between the world of professional practice, interested in service and information system development, and the world of the academy, focused on the development of theory and the progress of the discipline. A virtual organization such as a collaboratory might support collaboration between LIS professionals and academics in research, potentially transforming the way research is undertaken between these two groups.

The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine how sociotechnical aspects of work organization influence the initiation, development and conclusion of collaboration between LIS academics and professionals in distributed research projects. The study examined how three collaborative projects developed from their start to completion in two countries. The results of the analysis of the three cases have two implications. Firstly, they suggest an extension of the existing theory of remote scientific collaboration to small-scale, distributed, no grant-funded or small grant-funded collaborative research projects not only in LIS, but also in other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Secondly, they provide values to underpin the design of a sustainable collaboratory.



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Swedish School of Library and Information Science University of Borås and Gothenburg University ISBN: 978-91-89416-24-6 ISSN: 1103-6990





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## Doktorsavhandling vid Institutionen Biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap/Bibliotekshögskolan Högskolan i Borås och Göteborgs universitet

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Actors in Collaboration Sociotechnical Influence on Practice-Research Collaboration

Omslag & design

Marisa Ponti & Carina Waldén

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Distribution

Publiceringsföreningen VALFRID, Institutionen Biblioteksoch informationsvetenskap/Bibliotekshögskolan,
Högskolan i Borås och Göteborgs universitet

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Författaren och Publiceringsföreningen VALFRID

*Tryck* Intellecta Infolog, 2010

Serie Skrifter från VALFRID, nr 43 ISBN 978-91-89416-24-6 ISSN: 1103-6990