

How could one understand and interpret the phenomenon of information technology, is the overall research question of this licentiate dissertation.

The point of departure is the way some official texts in Sweden define the concept of information technology. It is possible to identify two dominating discourses; the technical and the social. In the first paper, empirical material from the Women Writing on the Net-project is mirrored against these dominating discourses. In the second paper, the focus is on how the dominating discourses are translated into librarians' work practices and how librarians shape and transform information technology.

How could one understand librarians' ways of talking about information technology where the two separate discourses of information technology identified in the official texts do not seem to be identified as pure and separable phenomena? Feminist theories, feminist technoscientific studies and 'actor-network theory' offer epistemological and analytical frames and screens necessary to understand information technology as a hybrid involving numerous heterogeneous elements.



ISBN 91-7295-000-5