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News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

Editor's corner

Anders Gustavsson

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg informs about news in Strömstad Academy. Flensburg writes about Artificial intelligence.

In Reprint Series SAR nr 7 **matematician Alfred Holl och Yvonne Stry** have published *The Florentine maestri d'abaco Piermaria (1457–1508) and Filippo (Maria) (1468–1518) di Calandro Calandri and their works*. <https://stromstadakademi.se/SAR/SAR-7.pdf>

I want to urge a previous call for all members to verify and complete their personal information on the Academy website. Also try to recruit new members to the Academy, not least young scholars. Please, send suggestions to **Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg** perflensburg@gmail.com.

I wish new contributions to the November issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 November 2024: anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no. Send short articles, opinion articles and/or reviews of new scientific literature. Swedish contributions should have an English translation. Texts should be in Word- or Open Office format!

Please, also send contributions to the Academy's publication series *Acta Academia Strömstadiensis*, AAS, to peter@wahrborg.se, the video series SAV to: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: perflensburg@gmail.com

Monthly report from Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

October's monthly report from Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the board

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

It is now time for October's monthly report. October is the 10th month of the Gregorian calendar.

And October has 31 days. Due to the daylight saving time system, it is the longest month of the year, one hour longer than the other months with 31 days - because in October you switch to standard time. So we get a whole hour more to use in October!

Changes to the calendar

We had a working committee meeting where we brought up many important things for the Board. The first is some changes in the calendar. We are putting in an extra working committee meeting before the board meeting on November 11. The Working Committee will meet on November 4 to prepare items for the board meeting to address. The agenda must be ready to be reviewed at the working committee meeting. Our calendar runs up to and includes the Annual Meeting on March 17, 2025, and the meetings are included in the calendar on the website (<https://www.stromstadakademi.org/my-easy-termin-kalender-calendar/>). The calendar is a plan. Changes can therefore naturally occur. These are preferably digital meetings, but we are investigating the possibility of having a physical meeting this spring. There have been several requests for this. The calendar holds roughly one board meeting per quarter. The Annual Meeting is in March, following the new by-laws and the new annual plan. The Working Committee has one or two meetings between board meetings and can be called in extra for decisions on urgent matters. Notices for both extraordinary board meetings and extra working committee meetings can therefore occur. Please note that we have a meeting on January 20, but in order for us to process the motions, the meeting must be moved forward one month, proposed to February 17. If this meeting then becomes a physical meeting, it will be from lunch to lunch, February 17-18. We have not decided where the meeting will be, but there will be a proposal on this matter for the board meeting on November 11. Motions must be submitted to the board 8 weeks before the annual meeting. Please consider what kind of matter that could require a motion to the annual meeting. Many suggestions can be addressed immediately. Motions should be more comprehensive proposals.

Guest columns in Strömstads Tidning need to be resumed

Mikael Andersson is Editor-in-Chief of Strömstads Tidning. There has been a change of Editor-in-Chief. Strömstad Academy needs to be seen more in Strömstads Tidning. Åsa, together with Mariana, have tried to streamline the handling of chronicles. We now propose for the third time that guest columns and other articles can be submitted directly to Strömstads Tidning. There should be an email address that we can all use. We should not have to go through a local contact (Åsa) for Strömstad Academy. We believe this will make handling more efficient. We should easily be able to present one column per month. Editor-in-Chief Mikael Andersson with e-mail mikael.andersson@stnb.se should be used. Please write a nice cover letter for an attached submitted column.

International local chapter with Angelika Basch as coordinator

We actually have an additional local chapter. That is the international local chapter with Angelika Basch as coordinator. This is not an entirely new chapter. It has existed for some time, but for some reason has ended up on the back burner. This chapter must of course be highlighted and supported in every way. We have high ambitions when it comes to engaging international members in Strömstad Academy. Considering the importance of internationalization in Strömstad Academy, perhaps we could organize some special activity, to try to attract our international members to attend the Science Festival. Now, it may not work for the upcoming 2025 spring festival, but maybe in 2026? We then need to have English as the conference language and perhaps arrange some sightseeing for foreign guests. Of course we need to discuss this with Angelika Basch. We will surely get good suggestions from Angelika as well.

Local chapters in general

There has been a bit of this and that with the activities in the local chapters. Among other things, it has been unclear to many members to which local chapter they belong. We have therefore made a division based on postcode. This division can be found on the website on the internal page intended for members. You can also access it from the front page. If someone thinks they belong to the wrong local chapter, just contact Per and he will fix it.

Language questions for the Bard, Swedish or English, or both?

At the working committee, we discussed the language issue in the board meeting. This is not simple. At the meeting, we used Swedish as the meeting language, but our eminent secretary translated into English in an excellent way. Angelika Basch is English speaking and she is a member of the Board and we must provide her with conditions to be able to fully participate. The working committee has discussed how we could solve the language issue, but there is not yet a viable proposal for a decision.

It is important that we offer Angelika Basch conditions to participate at the board meetings on the same terms as the rest of us. We have to solve the language issue. It is of great value to have Angelika on the Board.

Policy for Strömstad Academy publications – a living document

The Editorial Board has had a discussion about a publication policy for Strömstad Academy. It is excellent that we are revising our publishing policy. We should do that at regular intervals. We have stocks of literature that we haven't been able to sell and we need to think about that. The publication policy is something that the Board will eventually decide on. It is the Editorial Board's responsibility to prepare a document for the Board to decide on. The competence is found in the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board does not have meetings very often and it is unclear when the Board will receive proposals for a publication policy. The Board needs a concrete basis for the discussion.

Archiving policy for Strömstad Academy

We have not had a recorded archiving policy in the past. Of course, we still had certain routines for archiving. In the Working Committee, we have discussed the need for an archiving policy. We agree to produce one. Sten Philipson had produced a document for an initial discussion. The archiving policy is to be determined when it is ready! Sten Philipson and Bode Janzon are working on a document.

Our academic writings are basically already archived except for the videos in our video series. These are scattered in many places and we have to collect them all in one place that we have control over. There is a plan for this, but it must be put into action. In general, when it comes to documentation, it is important that we have clear and well-documented procedures.

E-mail

Some of you have had e-mail addresses of the form <first name>.<surname/last name>@stromstadakademi.se. Newsletters/forums are also sent to this address, but in most cases except for three, the letter has bounced back because the mailbox was full. The reason for this is because it is not used. In connection with the change of web hosting, the Vice-Chancellor sent out a request if you wanted to keep the Strömstad address and how you would then proceed. Three people got in touch. If anyone wants a Strömstad address, just contact Per.

We have also created a number of generic addresses:

- ordforande@stromstadakademi.se
- rektor@stromstadakademi.se
- info@stromstadakademi.se
- akademi@stromstadakademi.se

These addresses forward the mail to the relevant person. Thus, issues concerning the Board should be sent to ordforande@stromstadakademi.se, issues to the Vice-Chancellor should be sent to rektor@stromstadakademi.se, etc.

Continued collaboration with Strömstad's opera

There is an opera in Strömstad, did you know that? Yes, no physical house, but a company that gives opera performances. Last year, Mozart's The Magic Flute was given, and in connection with that, a couple of the Academy's members gave a talk at Strömstad's library on this occasion. This year, this collaboration continues and Strömstad's opera has "ordered" four lectures. The theme for the opera in 2025 is Strauss' (which celebrates 200 years in 2025) Läderlappen, with the subtitle –“Det Crusselska Kalaset” in Strömstad. The idea of the lectures is to get to know one's city, one's region, one's self in order to be able to take part with curiosity in the outside influences that affect our lives. Per and the leader of the opera, Charlotta Huldt, are scouting famous people from Strömstad who might fit the role figures. I have suggested that Constable Boman should play the prison warden. Charlotta and I are happy to receive suggestions for presentations.

The schedule is not ready yet, but it would be fantastic if we could have a performance in connection with our Science Festival.

Per Flensburg: Artificial intelligence = Unnatural understanding

Artificial intelligence = Unnatural understanding

Per Flensburg, Professor of Informatics, Vice-Chancellor Strömstad Academy

These days there is a lot of talk about AI, which is an abbreviation of Artificial Intelligence, a concept that was launched at a conference in Dartmouth, USA, in 1956. It is thus not a new concept and if you translate AI into Swedish it becomes “unnatural understanding” and that's exactly what AI is. I will explain why in this article.

AI is based on neural networks. It consists of weighted nodes in several layers, but always one input and one output layer. A neural network must be trained through an extensive set of training data. You enter a question and get an answer. Training data has the correct answer. In most cases the answer is wrong and then weights are adjusted and new test data is entered. The adjustments are made according to mathematical rules. In the end, the changes are very small and then the network has been trained and can be used. A lot of test data is needed, a few hundreds of thousands of cases, maybe even millions. The interesting thing is that you can later train the same network to something completely different with other test data. If this is combined with linguistic structures, we have a chatbot, with which one can seemingly have an intelligent conversation.

But this has nothing to do with intelligence! It is about machine learning, based on extensive training with lots of training data. It is about the probability that a certain phrase follows another. We humans have judgment, no computer has, even if it can be trained to appear to have it. Ultimately, all of this is based on an ability to recognize patterns, and within the limited world of test data, the computer sees more patterns than us humans and can act based on these. But the audience is impressed and believes that the computer figured it out all

by itself, that the computer has imagination and creativity. This is absolutely not the case, the computer has as much creativity as a talking parrot! The big danger is that we think the parrot is creative!

AI can help us find connections and patterns in huge amounts of data. But what the connections mean, AI cannot say anything about. Humans can do that, and in this way AI can become an important aid. The conversation with a chatbot is based on probability, on the average, and it is phenomenal at producing template texts, for example for advertising or reports of football matches. The chatbots are made to sound awesome, but have no idea if what is being written is true. Every text from a chatbot must be fact-checked.

The world of AI is its training data. This is separate from the real world. As little as a mimic parrot can take over the world, so little can AI! However, many of the abilities humans have will be imitated and even improved through AI. Many professions will disappear or change fundamentally, but many new ones will be added. AI can relieve humans from standard tasks and the big danger is that humans become too relieved and lose parts of their real intelligence.

