

JONAS NORDIN

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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN

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Fritt ord 250 år

Tryckfrihet och offentlighet i Sverige och Finland
– ett levande arv från 1766

Kongl. Majestät
Sveriges
Örordning,
Tryckfrihet
Skrif- och Tryck-friheten;
Gifven Stockholm i 328. Gammars Öns. L. Envalde.
1766.



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*Her ordnades
2. dec. 1766.*

Kongl. Maj:ts
Nådige
Ördrning,

Angående
Skrif- och Tryck-friheten;

Gifven Stockholm i Råd- och Kamraren then 2. Decembr.
1766.



Cum Gratia & Privilegio S:æ R:æ Maj:tis.

Tryckt uti Kongl. Tryckeriet.

***His Majesty's
Gracious Ordinance,
Concerning Freedom
in Writing and in
Print; given in the
Council-Chamber on
2 December 1766.***

**English translations at:
frittord250.se
peterforsskal.info**

Public documents according to the 1766 Ordinance

- **Treatises with foreign powers (§ 5)**
- **Records from all public authorities, including courts, civil service departments, county governors, church and academic bodies (§ 6–7)**
- **Acts from the Chamber of Court and Council (i.e. the Supreme Court) as well as from the Chancellor of Justice (§ 6)**
- **The votes of the councillors of the realm and the government's comments to motions from the Diet (§ 8)**
- **Statements of facts to courts, public authorities, the government and the Diet (§ 9)**
- **Verdicts, statements, and decrees from courts, ministries, and the government (§ 10)**
- **Letters from public authorities and private persons to courts and central administration (§ 10)**
- **Accounts of the activities of civil servants (§ 10)**
- **Minutes, reports, memorandums, and votes from the Diet (§ 11)**
- **Government bills (§ 11)**

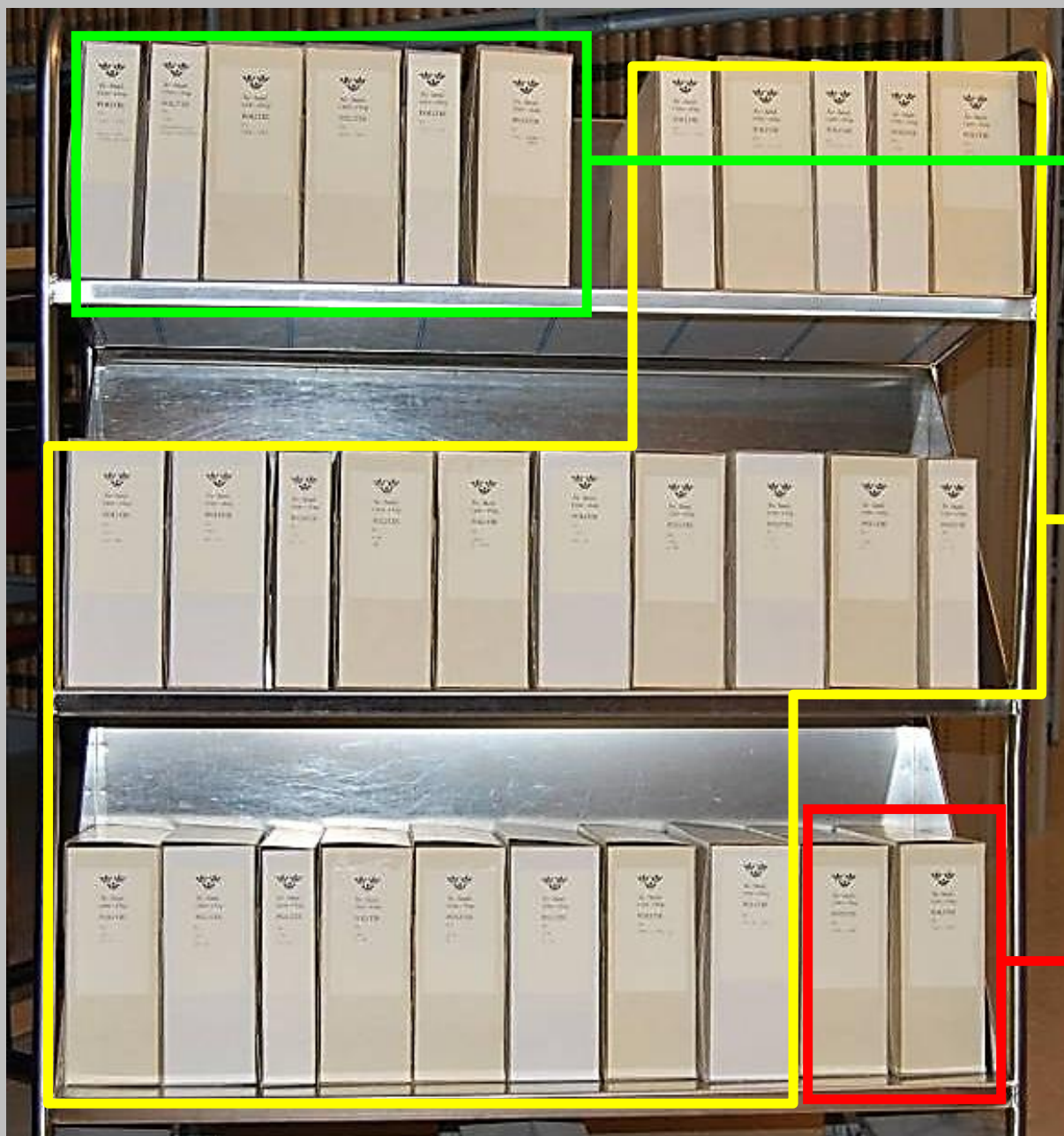
In this ordinance you will certainly find that the liberty of the press is far more extensive in Sweden than in any other country, including England, because here even the minutes of the State Council – which we call the Justice Revision – are allowed to be printed.

Gustav III to Voltaire, April 1774

With freedom of print is understood every Swedish man's right to – without any prior hindrances from the public authorities – issue publications. [...] All records and minutes, regardless of subject – excluding those held in the Council and at the king relating to secret foreign affairs and military matters –, may be printed without conditions. [...]

1809 Instrument of Government, § 86

Political pamphlets 1700–1809



● 1700–1765

● 1766–1772

● 1772–1808

Some traits from 1766 in today's print legislation (1949)

- **separate constitutional regulation**
- **exclusivity principle**
- **principle of public access to official records**
- **single responsibility**
- **legally responsible editor**

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