

The Royal Library, Denmark

Report 2006

Management of the library; performance indicators, planning, decision making, evaluation, mission statement

The Royal Library is Denmark's national library and university library for the University of Copenhagen.

As national library the institution administers the national cultural heritage of both Danish and foreign origin in terms of published works (books, periodicals, newspapers, leaflets), manuscripts, documents, maps, pictures, photographs and music in conventional or digital form. The institution provides optimal access to the collections on present day conditions for the purpose of research, studies and experiences, while at the same time making sure that the collections are preserved, secured and handed over to posterity. As museum and cultural institution the national library mediates knowledge and experiences derived from its tasks and collections. In its capacity of national library the institution carries out research within the national library's tasks, functions, subjects and collections.

As university library the institution is main library for the University of Copenhagen and delivers professional and scholarly library service at the very highest level in support of education and research. Moreover the library makes information resources available to the public including the business community and the public sector. In 2005 a very important decision was made to merge the Danish National Library of Science and Medicine with The Royal Library.

The idea behind the merging of the two libraries is to provide a more complete and comprehensive service to the University of Copenhagen and to make sure that the different services develop concurrently with the increased needs and demands from the university, including the demands to a future research library and also to create a new accommodating organisation that will be able more forcefully to produce the basis for qualitative improvements and thereby greater opportunities for both the university library, the national library and joint areas.

2006 marked the first reporting year of the newly established joint organisation: The Royal Library, National Library and Library of the University of Copenhagen.

Both the former libraries' strategic plans expired by the end of 2006. The new institution was charged with the task in 2006 to plan its activities so that the targets for 2006 were realised in accordance with the two strategic plans.

In early spring 2006 the Ministry of Culture and the management of the new institution began negotiations about the content of a strategic plan for the years 2007-2010 with a formulation of the institution's mission, vision and strategy.

The vision is to be realised within a number of strategic activity areas for the National Library, Research and Copenhagen University Library with particular focus on the following two themes:

- Increased user orientation

- Further development of the hybrid library.

Increased user orientation means that in every field of activity the library takes into consideration the user aspect when prioritising and planning its services. It must be easy for the user to approach the library and get access to the library's resources. Choice of information resources must be coordinated according to both short- and long term user considerations. Users must have access to up-to-date and well functioning study facilities. As national library it is also essential to provide relevant and well organised general cultural mediation.

In connection with the preparation of a new strategic plan with the Ministry of Culture for the period 2007-2010 the National Library has formulated a strategy entitled *For knowledge, insight and experience*. The strategy describes the National Library's tasks and prioritisations 2007-2010.

The strategy emphasizes the fact that in principle the National Library is available to every citizen as part of the free and equal access to information. The division of labour with the country's other libraries means that the National Library can target its services to scholars and students in higher education as well as to the 'culture consuming' part of the adult population. The general visitor with a greater need to access literature and information not covered by the public libraries or the university libraries can also be serviced at the National Library. The principle is that nobody approaching the National Library will have to leave empty-handed.

The strategy singles out three action lines for the next four years:

- Strengthen and extend the digital library
- Simplify access to the library and the collections
- Extend the collections and ensure their preservation.

Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

The objective of The Royal Library's digitisation of its collections is to provide easier access to the national cultural heritage by making available via the net authentic digital editions of important national works to research, education and anyone else interested - both in Denmark and abroad.

The department for Digital Development and Production is responsible for the digital part of the hybrid library. The tasks include processing, handling, storing and mediation of digital documents and pictures. It is the special responsibility of the department to ensure that mediation which happens via www.kb.dk to the greatest possible extent considers the users' diverse needs and meets the, at any given time, current expectations to web mediation.

All Danish books are now searchable in the online-catalogue REX. The catalogue is the most complete in terms of covering Danish book production and books about Denmark. Retro conversion started back in 1993, when the library began converting the more recent printed card catalogues, keying them into REX. Following that, older parts of the catalogue were converted. The last and most laborious phase of the project, which is now completed, started in 2001. All cards in the alphabetical catalogue have been examined and held up against the machine-generated records from printed and typed originals. More than 400,000 cards have been checked. The alphabetical catalogue was founded in 1826, which means that many of the slips are handwritten in Gothic writing. Over the many years of

the life of the catalogue, this has amounted to a large number of handwritings, just as the cataloguing practice has varied.

The Department of Manuscripts has published a number of larger texts on the net about individual oeuvres on the net, in connection with special occasions or as web exhibitions in connection with some of The Royal Library's exhibitions. As regards costs, accessibility and preservation, the publication of digital facsimiles offers considerable advantages: manuscripts can be studied simultaneously all over the world, serving different purposes and without wear and tear on fragile original material.

The fusion of Copenhagen University Library has resulted in access to more electronic resources (databases and periodicals) – for the previous patrons of the two merged libraries. Licenses of both institutions have been renegotiated, and consequently by far the major part has been opened to the collective University of Copenhagen. There have been and will continue to be increased annual expenses in connection with these extensions – as a result of the greater number of potential users from the University of Copenhagen.

Despite the fact that the two merged institutions represent entirely different subject areas, the extension of the license agreements, which actually corresponds to new acquisitions for both parties, has fulfilled a long cherished wish for improved opportunities for inter-disciplinary research. The inter-disciplinary aspect does not only manifest itself in the chosen areas of research, but also in the very essence of many institutes at the University of Copenhagen, like for example the institutes of psychology, sport, health science, environment and sociology. All these institutes and their students now have access to e-resources within the humanities and social sciences.

In 2006 access to the large number of databases and periodicals has also changed its image. A new interface for searching in electronic resources was developed, and has from January 2007 been integrated in a completely new homepage for Copenhagen University Library, under the title “E-resources”.

Funding

When the new institution was established – the merging of The Royal Library and The National Library of Science and Medicine – the Ministry decided that fixed economic frames had to be worked out for the National Library's, the University Library's and the shared functions' shares of the total government grant. The total amount in the National Budget was DKK 250 mil.

Like all Government institutions, the library reorganised its accounts from 2005 in accordance with the Government's accounts reform. As per 1. January 2007 grants, budgets and accounts are all set out according to cost principles.

The library has received financial support from a large number of sponsors, foundations, institutions, companies and private citizens during 2006, particularly with a view to publications, exhibitions and research assignments.

Legislation

The legislative framework for The Royal Library is set out in the National Budget. Apart from that there are specific legislative frameworks for legal deposit, for protection of collections against theft and for research.

There have been no changes in 2006 in the legislation on legal deposit or indeed any laws passed that might influence the library's activities.

Buildings

After the merging, the library have four service points, i.e. the building at Slotsholmen, The Black Diamond, and Copenhagen University Library North (Nørre Allé), Copenhagen University Library City (Fiolstræde) and Copenhagen University Library South (Amager Campus).

On 8. May the first spit was turned for a new building in connection with Copenhagen University Library South (Amager Campus). The building is expected to be ready at the beginning of 2008. The new library will be placed at the very heart of Campus for Copenhagen University Amager and the new faculty library will be designed in the light of present day experiences as to user behaviour and their wishes. The number of study seats will be doubled by almost four. The building will have wireless network. The ground floor will have a café and information/demonstration area. The new university library will be equipped with large open glass frontages facing the square, 450 study seats, 70,000 books on open shelves and 30 running kilometres of compact shelves. As you ascend the upper floors, silence and concentration predominate.

In 2005 The Royal Library signed a very large sponsor agreement which means the fulfilment of an age long wish to have a permanent, high security exhibition room in the Gallery in The Black Diamond. As scheduled the treasury opened on 10. November, named the Montana Hall, which will house exhibitions of the library's most valuable treasures. The layout differs markedly from other more traditional exhibition rooms. Through a single very large cylindrical glass case one experiences an entire exhibition hall full of treasures.

Staffing matters

In organisational terms The National Library was hardly affected by the merging of The Royal Library and The National Library of Science and Medicine. For Copenhagen University Library the situation was somewhat different. It was composed of about 90 members of staff from The Danish National Library of Science and Medicine and about 75 from The Royal Library. When the institutions merged in October 2005 a temporary organisation was established with the appointment of a management team and maintaining the previous departments and functions. Over the following three months the new organisation was worked out and was made public at the beginning of January 2006. Next came the task of placing members of staff in the new units. This part was completed in early February, and the new organisation started operating on 1. March 2006.

After the election of six union representatives for six main organisations, the liaison committee for the new institution was appointed, and the first general meeting took place at the beginning of February 2006. During 2006 committees with reference to the liaison committee have completed a compilation of the staff policy of the two former institutions. By the end of 2006 the work was finished, and the liaison committee had approved agreements concerning staff, salary, competence development, management policy as well as regulations for working hours and organisation of tasks.

In 2006 the internal offers of further education have been concentrated on essential competence maintenance as a result of the implementation of new systems and training of newly appointed managers.

Information technology and net- works – the digital library

With a simultaneous focus on building up, mediation and preservation of both conventional and digital collections The Royal Library is a hybrid library. As part of a forward-orientated goal it is absolutely essential that the digital content of the hybrid library is augmented. This must happen by increasing the digital share of the library's collections, the digital accessibility of collections and information and the digital administration of the library. It must improve user access to relevant information and encourage self-service. In this way the library's services and activities will become more effective, use of manpower will be reduced as will wear and tear.

2006 became the year where all the necessary foundation stones were laid in order that The Royal Library's web services could be brought up-to-date with the opening of a completely new web site at the beginning of 2007. A prerequisite of the new web was the introduction of a common production system, which we have called 'KB CMS'. With the Department for Digital Development and Production as primus motor, the library's departments have been busy in 2006 creating new web pages via this system which makes it possible to focus on content and mediation rather than technology. It becomes easier for the departments to create new web pages to kb.dk, which can promote the library's culture and knowledge treasures and content is separated from display, so that content can be divided across the site as well as being displayed with the design most suitable for the target group in question.

During 2006 The Royal Library has been preparing for the acquisition of a new search system, which will provide 'integrated search' possibilities for the library's patrons. The system is based on harvesting of data sources (primarily metadata) that can provide quick and direct access to large amounts of relevant information to students and employees at the University of Copenhagen. The system will offer the user search speeds equivalent to Google Scholar and direct access to e.g. articles from licensed resources, to which access today is notoriously not very user-friendly. In 2006 The Royal Library established a consortium together with a number of other libraries in order to make a joint acquisition and operation of the integrated search system PRIMO, just as the consortium has signed a development agreement with EX Libris on participating in the development of PRIMO. The hope is that PRIMO can be made available to the users in a betaversion in autumn 2007.

Legal deposit of materials

Texts, pictures and sound published on the net are now also a part of Danish cultural heritage and are now being compiled in accordance with Act on Legal Deposit from 1. July 2005. In 2006 The State and University Library and The Royal Library have continued their work with realising the intentions of the act. Their cooperation takes place through a virtual institution, netarkivet.dk, which is managed by a steering committee of six heads of department from the two libraries. Per delegation the steering committee is responsible for interpretation of the act and consequently for the content of the net archive, as well as for the preservation of the compiled data and the technology behind the harvest engines. By the end of 2006 the compiled data took up 24 TB.

The strategy for the compilation is threetiered: regular cross harvestings of the entire .dk-domain, more frequent harvestings of selected dynamic web sites (typically newspapers, radio and TV) and intensive harvestings of events. The aim is to establish as complete a national net archive as possible. The Royal Library is responsible for the cross-harvestings and event-harvestings, but the compilation is done in close partnership with The State and University Library. In this connection an event is defined as a subject that for one thing creates a lot of publicity in the traditional media, collected via selective harvesting, and for another generates new, temporary web sites that are not included in the cross- harvestings, and which therefore have to be collected and preserved.

In 2006 the department carried out two cross- harvestings of the domain .dk, namely of the municipal reform and the political crisis in connection with the Muhammad drawings. Also Danish web sites domains on other than .dk are subject to the law, and in 2006 the department located about 30,000 web sites on domains like .com, .org, .nu, .net which will be harvested in the future.

The acquisition of works in physical form as part of the cultural heritage obviously continues. In 2006 the department received 189 running metres legal deposit in excess of the previous year, which is a breach from the pattern of a decreasing number of metres since the counting of metres started in 2002. The rise might be due to the fact that more and more book printers and bookbinders deposit 4-5 times a year instead of the statutory two times, so that the library in autumn 2006 had received part of the production which would normally not arrive until January 2007. Next year will show whether the rise reflects more publications – or a change in the delivery pattern.

Acquisitions

As national library The Royal Library in 2006 acquired original manuscripts by a large number of prominent Danish authors, both poets and writers from The Golden Age and modern literature from the latter part of the 20th century.

The incorporation of author manuscripts in the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books (fiction and literary criticism) etc. from the 1800s and 1900s has been highly prioritised, prominent names being St. St. Blicher, Georg Brandes and Sophus Clausen. About 50 works have been acquired at auctions, which from a museum aspect illustrate facets of Danish and foreign (particularly French) book and bookbinding history. Over the past few years the Department of Manuscripts has also focused on drawings and other types of illustrations in books and newspapers.

Early in the year, members of staff from the Music and Theatre Department travelled to Vienna to pack the large collection of manuscripts and documents after the Danish composer Paul von Klenau into boxes ready to be transported back to Copenhagen. The collection consisting of music manuscripts, letters, lectures, cuttings and photos relating to Klenau's life and works had been left in an apartment in Vienna and a summer cottage in Tyrol for more than 40 years since the composer's death in 1946.

Important inclusions in the National Museum of Photography are the four portraits by Thomas Ruff, Germany, born 1958. Thomas Ruff is one of the most important names in late 20. century photographic art. His work is based on the so-called Düsseldorf School and his influence on the development of photography as well as on Danish photographers has been very substantial. By acquiring these central works in his production, the National Museum of Photography has by now

established a broad collection of works from the Düsseldorf School. The Danish public is thus given the opportunity to experience at first hand the very latest photo history, and the museum is able to display some of the important sources of inspiration to present Danish photography.

Copenhagen University Library's acquisition budget amounted to DKK 43,7 mil. in 2006. Half of this amount, went on the acquisition of e-information resources.

No major periodical licenses were acquired in 2006, but an important service improvement has been the establishing of shared licenses and thereby better opportunities for carrying out interdisciplinary studies and research.

Building up the periodicals collection happens to a greater degree by a change of acquisition of physical units to the acquisition of electronic periodicals. The aim is that the printed edition of all periodicals that are available in both printed and electronic form, is cancelled. The first important phase has been completed in 2006 by cancelling – at 'license-package' level – all those printed periodicals that are also available in electronic form. The second phase with a sorting through of all printed periodicals at single level will be done in 2007 with a view to further cancellations.

The library currently concentrates on acquiring as many information resources as possible within the economical framework, i.a. by making a framework agreement with book suppliers resulting in an annual saving of about 5%. The agreement starts operating at the beginning of 2007.

Preservation and Conservation

Preservation initiatives are based on The Royal Library's ordinary National Budget grant and on the national heritage grant and can be divided into three major action lines, namely:

- Preventive preservation which includes control and management of the collections' environments in order to prevent disintegration of the objects without handling the object itself.
- Conservation which includes chemical as well as physical procedures in connection with a damaged object with a view to stabilisation or recreation of form.
- Substitution which includes production of a replacement copy of objects in danger of being lost due to disintegration. The information is transferred to microfilm or digital form in order to secure long-time preservation of the information.

The preventive procedures have in 2006 been carried out in collections that were prioritised and selected in cooperation with the collection departments. Focus has been on historically important collections where the condition requires action taken. Together with the placement in new acid-free covers and archival boxes, a report on conditions in selected collections has been prepared with a view to future treatment and use.

The Royal Library has participated in a national committee for mass deacidification for the purpose of estimating the need for mass deacidification. A sample examination was carried out in the national collections to determine the connection between acid content and disintegration. Also in 2006, the Department of Preservation has taken part in the planning of new stacks in connection with the existing ones at Njalsgade 112 and Godsbanen. Storage of collections in climate-controlled stacks, where the climate is adapted to the types of materials, is by far the best and most

economically viable way to prevent disintegration. Given the right storage conditions the collections' lifespan is considerably prolonged.

The Department of Digital Preservation is responsible for preserving digital objects at The Royal Library. The area of responsibility covers long-term preservation of digital objects, including both storage of digital works conducted in The Royal Library and technical responsibility for collection and storage of static web publications collected according to Act on Legal Deposit. Together with 14 other partners from European national libraries, archives, leading research institutions and technology companies, The Royal Library participates in a major EU research project, PLANETS, with focus on logic preservation generally. The project runs from 2006-2010 with the main objective of establishing a service-based technical and organisational infrastructure that supports future access to and interpretation of digital files – based on standards for description and storage of objects and programs for the reading of these. The Royal Library's activities in the project are focused on characterisation and conversion of data formats.

Services to readers

It is an overall objective for The Royal Library to further the development of the digital library through the exploitation of the possibilities available via information technology. It must facilitate the reader's access to information, encourage the use of the collections and streamline collection management and mediation. The use of the electronic collections makes it possible for the users to gain access to relevant information all round the clock. Thus the library's loans figure has quadrupled over a period of six years.

The Black Diamond is the main address of the National Library, and the library's large collections of older material and valuable treasures will still be used in reading rooms and put on public display in a variety of exhibitions.

Usage of the National Library's collections is for the greater part made electronically. The electronic loans figure is increasing and derives to a great extent from collections produced by the library itself, such as The National Picture Base, The Portrait Base and Archive of Danish Literature. Apart from these electronic collections the library has digitised a large number of music scores, manuscripts, books etc. which are extremely popular.

On the other hand, the number of visitors in the large reading room for researchers, Reading Room West, has fallen. This is due to a behavioural regulation in the reading room, done in order to maintain the researcher environment. Reading Room West is thereby guaranteed a frame for researchers doing long- term projects. The number of guests in the centre reading rooms is more or less unchanged. At the same time, a division of labour has been carried out in The Black Diamond, so that Reading Room East and Reading Room North are used exclusively as study reading rooms. This has taken the pressure off the researcher- orientated Reading Room West and the centre reading rooms.

The Black Diamond is a cultural institution offering a large number of attractions to the general public, such as exhibitions, concerts, lectures and debates.

Copenhagen University Library's most important aim is to provide professional and scientific library service for the purpose of research and teaching at the University of Copenhagen. As regards

the borrowers, the most important improvements in services have been 1) budgetary changes of priority that have benefited acquisitions of knowledge resources (printed and electronic); 2) extension of e-licenses from old The Royal Library and old The Danish National Library of Science and Medicine to the entire university; 3) merging of the two libraries' catalogue systems REX and Cosmos so that borrowers only have to search in one online catalogue; 4) implementation of a programme for the development of study environment with extension of opening hours and more study seats; 5) reestablishment of personal information function in all Copenhagen University Library domiciles and establishment of common entry to all the library's personal service functions; 6) development of new, improved homepage; 7) establishment of possibility to return and collect books from all the university library's service points. Moreover, a personal information function is to be established at all four service points. In September the plan to extend the opening hours of the four service points of Copenhagen University Library was put into action. An offer of special study seats turned out to fulfil a great need.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

From dust to gold – handbooks and broadsheets from The Royal Library – was the first exhibition in the Royal Library's new exhibition hall – the Montana Hall which opened to the public on the 10. of November.

The hall is the result of a collaboration between the internationally well-known Danish furniture company Montana A/S and The Royal Library. The collaboration included every stage from the initial brainstorming between a visionary cultural celebrity and a public national institution via concept development to projecting, design, and the realisation of the first exhibition.

The subject of the first exhibition was old Danish handbooks, broadsheets, novels etc., and via an interplay and a dialog between the two designers and the new hall, the scene is set for a cultural historical exhibition with new approaches and presentations of the otherwise unpretentious treasures.

The exhibition Threats & Stolen Goods turned the focus on the many threats against the written cultural heritage which Memory of the World-program aims to protect and preserve. Central themes were the fire in the University Library in 1728 and The Big Book Theft from The Royal Library in the 1970s, where i.a. the many stolen books that were discovered on the thief's premises, were exhibited. Also exhibited were those Danish works and archive collections which are nominated for inclusion in UNESCO's Memory of the World list of works of unique importance.

The National Museum of Photography celebrated the tenth anniversary of its establishment with the summer exhibition Short Stories from its own collection. The exhibition showed the broad spectrum of the photograph from early war photos to photographic contemporary art and video. The photo book enjoys a quite unique status in the history of photography. The exhibition The Open Book displayed 200 of the best or most important international photo books, chosen by an international jury. The Open Book has previously been shown in Tokyo and New York, and from Copenhagen it travelled on via Oslo to Paris. The exhibition Under the Same Sky took part in the cultural festival Images of the Middle East and introduced five contemporary artists from Tangier to Teheran with photographs and videos. A central theme was the question of how cultural and national identity is represented in contemporary art, which was also discussed at the two-day seminar The Power of Images.

Other notable information

The Ministry of Culture's Cultural Canon was published on 24. January 2006. This was the result of the minister of culture having appointed seven special canon committees with the task to select 12 Danish works which they felt had given successive new generations an artistic experience of the highest carat. The committees' work covered the artistic fields of architecture, visual arts, design and handicrafts, films, dramatic art, music and literature. As a result the Cultural Canon consists of 108 works spread over nine different categories of art forms.

The Royal Library considered this an opportunity to draw attention to some of the canonised works that are represented in the library's unique collections. Among the art forms included in the Cultural Canon, The Royal Library decided to focus on three: Literature, music and dramatic art where the collections are best suited for elaboration in a web version.

Within literature focus was on the publication of texts together with a large number of new digital editions of original manuscripts – particularly drafts. Also within music and dramatic art you will find drafts and original handwritten scores, as well as presentations of com- posers, e.g. the composer Carl Nielsen.

All the works, including The Royal Library's digitisations can be seen at <http://www.kulturkanon.kum.dk/>

The Danish princess Dagmar (1847-1928) was married to the Russian heir to the throne, the later Czar Alexander III and was given the Russian name Maria Feodorovna. After the Russian revolution Empress Dagmar fled the country in 1919 and died in Denmark where her coffin was placed in the crypt in Roskilde Cathedral until the re-burial in St. Petersburg on 28. September 2006. The Royal Library holds a large collection of photographs of Dagmar. They were produced on a CD-ROM as a gift to the institutions involved in the re-burial.

Major celebrations

At a ceremony on 19. June 2006 in Copenhagen Cathedral, Copenhagen University Library and the University of Copenhagen celebrated the fact that there is now once again one common library which is the largest in Denmark.

The establishment of Copenhagen University Library can be traced back to 1482, making the library one of the oldest university libraries in Europe. The first book in Copenhagen University Library's book collection was a gift from Peder Albertsen, LLD (ca. 1450-1517) who was one of the leading figures behind the establish of the University of Copenhagen. In 1482 he donated a manuscript divided into various subjects dealing with astronomy, geometry and mathematics and thereby laid the foundation stone to the later university library. The gift carried the condition that there would be an annual requiem said for Peder Albertsen and the university's other benefactors. Requiems belonged to the time before the Reformation, so the tradition simply disappeared. On 19. June it was for a brief moment resurrected in the Cathedral, which included i.a. the university's rector Ralf Hemmingsen. This reunification celebration marked that Copenhagen University Library after 70 years has once again become one unit.

Organisation

When the new institution was established, the Ministry of Culture had decided that the institution should include a national library part, a university part and a number of shared functions.

The National Library is organised as a main area and consist of the following departments:

- Department of Legal Deposit
- Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books
- Department of Maps, Prints and Photographs
- Music and Theatre Department
- Oriental and Judaica Collections
- Department of Cultural Activities
- Department of Preservation
- Department of Digital Preservation
- Department of Research

Copenhagen University Library consists of the following units:

- Copenhagen University Library City, Fiolstræde
- Copenhagen University Library North, consisting of three departments, Department of Subject Specialists and Documentation, Process Department and Public Department at Nørre Allé
- Copenhagen University Library, Slotsholmen in The Black Diamond
- Copenhagen University Library South, at Amager Campus

The shared functions are organised within the administrative/technical area Department of Administration, Department of Operation, Department of Security and Department of Buildings and the it area (It-department and Digital Development and Production) established by a merging of those units at the two previous institutions that had been dealing with these tasks.