

The Royal Library, Denmark

Report 2008

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 a 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.

On January 1st 2008 KUBIS: Copenhagen University Library- and Informationservice was born, which will handle the collective library service to researchers, teachers and students at the University of Copenhagen. The KUBIS agreement is to run for five years provisionally.

The goal 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.

The cooperation will consist of eight faculty libraries with appertaining institute libraries. These eight faculties have already to a great extent been given access to all electronic resources previously only available from the individual institutions. An interdisciplinary cooperation is hereby established in the license area, both organisationally and professionally. The head of KUBIS will answer to the management of both the University of Copenhagen and the Royal Library.

It is important to realise that KUBIS is not a new institution. KUBIS is a partnership organisation between the Royal Library and the University of Copenhagen. The Royal Library and the University of Copenhagen are two different institutions under two different ministries.

In 2008 the Danish Folklore Archive's merged with the Royal Library. The new research plan had been prepared before the fusion between the Danish Folklore Archive's and the Royal Library took place, as had the Danish Folklore Archive's's research plan. On the basis of this it has been decided to let both research plans apply

until they finish at the end of 2011, whereupon the plans will be merged.

Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation
One of the most vital of the Royal Library's goals is to the greatest possible extent to exploit the it-technology in order to support the development of the digital library. The direct access to information via a single click facilitates user access to information, encourages full use of the collections and streamlines collection management and mediation. Exploitation of the electronic collections makes it possible for users to gain access to relevant information round the clock. Information technology must also be exploited to make the physical collections available in the most rational and easy way for the users.

In September 2008 the Royal Library officially opened a new search facility for data in the library base REX based on the search system PRIMO. The aim is to give the users better and more "modern" search facilities. First of all by giving them access to search in all the library's information resources in one go via the same interface (also called "integrated search"). Secondly, by offering the users an easier way of navigating in the Royal Library's many different collections. In many ways the libraries find themselves in a time of upheaval where things are moving very fast. There is an increased institutionalisation of the collaboration between the different libraries, and library systems – as well as any other offers to the users – develop with a hitherto unknown speed. This also means an increasing recognition of the fact that it-systems and user services in a continuous process must be developed constantly and reconsidered in order to fulfil the users' wishes in the best possible way. And there is no doubt whatsoever that if libraries want to be abreast of developments, new initiatives have to be produced at a rapid pace! This realization is one of the cornerstones in the Royal Library's new search system and the work on adapting, refining and developing the search system goes on all the time. At the moment the new search system can – from one and the same place – offer search in all the library's books and periodicals, a large part of the licensed e-resources – (40 mil. full text articles) as well as the information and the collections made available online on the Royal Library's web. And more will be added currently.

In the spring the library launched a new mediation interface for the publishing of photos and pamphlets. Kick off was the pilot-project called Pictures Denmark, which in cooperation with local archives gives access to photos from Danish towns. Then followed catalogues since 1911 from Daell's Department Store, which have caused particular interest, and apart from ordinary people's interest in the catalogues, they have always been very much used as research material for films, theatre and television. Apart from the Daell's catalogues, also programmes from political parties (1871 -) and the so-called chest pictures were published. For nearly 300 years chest pictures in Denmark served as moral inspiration to common people with hand-coloured woodcuts. They were glued to the lid inside of one's chest – hence the name.

The biggest project launched in 2008 is *Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (DK-CLARIN)*, a project about research infrastructure within the humanities where the Royal Library is in charge of technical infrastructure as well as conducting parts of the actual digitisation. Moreover, *Archive for Danish Literature, ADL*, is to be adapted to the infrastructure. The project is funded by the National Pool for Research Infrastructure.

The Royal Library participates in a consortium with I.a. University of Copenhagen, University of Aarhus, Copenhagen Business School, Danish Language Council, Danish Language and Literature Society and The National Museum. The project hopes to be included as a Danish element in a major European CLARIN-infrastructure which is being prepared under the EU's 7th framework programme.

The research infrastructure will contain large bodies of text in old and modern Danish, parallel texts (identical text in two languages), spoken language, dictionaries, video sequences etc. These resources will be marked out with linguistic and other information via automatic tools. This will make it possible to find and combine results in completely new ways. It means that the project will support humanistic researchers' work in ways hitherto unseen and give access to new research results within linguistic science, literature, history etc.

The Royal Library is participating in a joint European project together with 13 other libraries. The project is called *eBooks on Demand* (EOD) and its purpose is to offer the users the possibility of ordering the scanning of an older book, exempt from copyright, for electronic delivery as a searchable pdf-file.

In practice the user orders an eBook by searching in the Royal Library's online catalogue. Here works from before 1900 have been given an EOD-icon. By clicking on the icon the user can order a digital copy of the book in question. The book is then digitised by the library, and can be downloaded by the user as a pdf-file. In the pdf the user can read, browse and zoom in the text on his screen, print out the whole file – or just individual pages – search words or sentences in the complete text as well as copy both text and pictures electronically to use in other contexts. Last, but not least, there are no restrictions on the use of the eBook.

If the book has previously been used as an eBook, it is free of charge for subsequent users, as only the first person to order the book will have to pay for the digitisation of the physical book.

Funding

When the new institution was established – the merging of the Royal Library and The Danish 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.

Like all Government institutions, the library reorganised its accounts from 2005 in accordance with the Government's accounts reform. As per January 1st 2008 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 2008, particularly with a view to publications, exhibitions and research assignments.

The National Budget 2008 gave the library an appropriation of DKK 325.2 million. After presenting the accounts 2007, a carried-over surplus of DKK 0.8 million could be added to the figure. During 2008 the library has had supplementary incomes of

DKK 16.1 million. The library's total income comes to DKK 359.0 million.

Legislation

The Royal Library is an autonomous institution reporting directly to the Ministry of Culture. The legislative framework for the Royal Library is set out in the National Bill of Finance. Apart from that there are specific legislative frameworks for legal deposit, for protection of collections against theft and for research.

Archiving of the Danish part of the internet forms part of a special task to be solved in collaboration with the State and University Library. The institution cooperates primarily with other institutions under the Ministry of Culture and with colleagues from sister institutions abroad.

The Act on Legal Deposit is to be revised at the latest during the parliamentary session 2010-11, and the two libraries behind the net archive will in 2009 be looking at necessary and essential changes, partly as a result of technological developments, partly as a result of the experiences gained since net harvesting started in 2005.

Buildings

On September 10th 2008 the Royal Library inaugurated the new humanistic faculty library, which is placed on the island of Amager in Copenhagen's new quarter Ørestaden. This marked the completion of the second stage of a building project initiated in the mid-1980s. The Royal Library's physical conditions were at that time quite desperate for patrons as well as staff and with many – and inadequate – remote stacks.

The building work was done by the architects Dissing+Weitling. Even though as university library the Royal Library has a history of nearly 600 years, it is a rare occurrence for the library to open a completely new university library building. The new library building also contains stacks with about 28 shelf kilometres compact shelving units, which means that the building can accommodate a total of about 72 shelf kilometres. They are the most modern stacks the Royal Library has at its disposal (see also the section on preservation).

The public area is arranged on three floors around an atrium that stretches right up to the ceiling construction, allowing an abundance of natural, indirect light. The faculty library has about 500 study places which are four times what the library had before, and there is room for 70,000 books on open shelves. There is wireless net access to the internet throughout the building. The ground floor has a café area with modern light furnishings. A great effort has been made to provide good acoustics in the public area.

Staffing matters

In 2008 a total of 622 members of staff were employed in the library. The number of employees has thus stayed at more or less the same level as in 2007, when taking into consideration the employees added by the fusion with the Danish Folklore Collection.

On January 1st 2007 the library's new staff development policy became effective. The overall aim is that "staff must maintain and further develop their competences in order to solve the library's tasks and enjoy personal satisfaction in their work". A staff

development strategy for the period 2007-2010 has been prepared, describing basic competences as well as strategic action lines. The methods for staff development cover a wide spectrum to make it possible to plan the teaching programme in terms of content so that it counterbalances ways and means. Rotation of staff will be used to a greater extent.

In the spring and autumn of 2008 electronic course catalogues were sent to all members of staff. The catalogues reflect the library's staff development for the period 2007-2010 and special wishes picked up during staff appraisals and feedback from the library's management. A number of permanent introductions to the library's centres, reading rooms etc., courses on security, fire and evacuation are available.

Special courses are available for staff serving the public and staff who work with mediation via the library's web. A number of courses were completed as a result of the introduction of new administrative systems and upgradings of these, e.g. the electronic case- and document handling system ScanJour. In the summer/autumn 2008 the library upgraded to the basis-it-system to Windows Vista including Office 2007 and Outlook 2007. In this connection all members of staff were offered a three-hour introduction programme.

Information technology and networks – 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.

The number of loans has in 2008 continued to rise with a hybrid factor reaching 89 i.e. of all loans are electronic loans. The growth is mainly due to electronic loans, while conventional loans keep falling, the difference, however being that the fall in physical loans has happened particularly within physical and medical sciences. The downward slope in physical loans reflects the general development within the area, where especially printed periodicals are replaced by electronic usage. In connection with the increase in electronic loans, it should be mentioned that also the number of searches in databases went up in 2008 as compared to the year before. With the emergence of *Europeana* (www.europeana.eu), Europe's digital multimedia library, the EU's determined effort to render visible digital sources to the European cultural heritage became a reality. *Europeana* is the portal that compounds digital sources and objects from libraries, sound-, film- and document archives and museums to inspire to exploration of European cultural history and contribute to this by exploiting *Europeana's* possibilities for inclusion of the users' own knowledge.

The vision is to create a portal demonstrating that culture and cultural perception is the lifeblood in European integration. By the use of communication technology the awareness of European cultural heritage is to increase – not only by browsing and searching in the content of the portal – but also by giving the users the opportunity to combine the content and show relations between the portal's individual elements and

objects in order to form an overall impression. For example, by a portrait of an author, the digitised works by an author, a photo of an object and a sound- or photo recording of an event together telling a story. Creating period pictures and capturing also our own time with the help of the users is the aim of the portal.

Legal deposit of materials

The Danish Collections contain the legal deposit books, periodicals, cd-roms and av-materials. The Royal Library receives as legal deposit all works published in Denmark, pursuant to Act no. 1439 of December 22nd 2004. The legal deposit forms the nucleus of the library's national collections and contains works in physical form as well as works published on the internet. Legal deposit of the Danish part of the internet is collected through so-called "net harvesting". This takes place at regular intervals according to a specific plan. A total of 84.5 gigabytes have been net harvested since 2005. They are kept on special servers in the Royal Library and the State and University Library in Aarhus.

In September the two libraries participated in an international web archiving workshop, held in Aarhus, where the experiences in connection with the harvesting of the Danish part of the internet were presented. Denmark is among the pioneers when it comes to the work with harvesting and archiving on the net.

An event harvesting is one of several methods of collecting as much as possible of the Danish part of the internet before it is removed. The other two methods are quarterly cross-section harvesting (of all Danish web sites) and selective harvestings of selected web sites (app. 80). The archive now contains a total of 84,527 GB (as per December 31st 2008).

A sizeable amount of printed matter is still being published which over the year must be sent to the library as part of the legal deposit scheme. The department had wished for a long time to show some of the legal deposit partners how the material is being dealt with. This wish was realised in November when Department of Legal Deposit received visits from Copenhagen suppliers, mainly printers. Invitations were sent out with the heading: "Come and see what happens to the printed material you deposit". Cooperation partners were told about the importance of legal deposit for the common cultural heritage.

ISSN Denmark, which assigns a unique number to Danish periodicals, can now offer a new service to publishers applying for an ISSN. Up till now they have had to send an application by post, fax or e-mail. In 2008 it became possible to apply online, as a web form can now be sent directly from www.kb.dk

The section Danish Periodicals can via a special module in the library's system, developed specifically for legal deposit, easily register numbers for the more than 23,000 periodicals and annual publications, which the library receives as legal deposit. The section can also quickly check whether issues are missing and request these. This has meant good contact to the publishers who now get an insight into why their periodical is kept in the National Library.

Acquisitions

The development of digital periodicals is today so advanced that printed periodicals will soon be a thing of the past. The interesting part is whether a similar development will take place in terms of books. For years the university library has held a license on e-brary with an ever increasing usage. But the usage model for this system does not seriously advance the development; it is a bit too complicated and cumbersome.

In 2008 the university library has acquired license on some important e-book collections within the field of natural and medical science, namely Elsevier's collective digital book portfolio for 2009 and similarly for the Royal Society of Chemistry. From the latter there were 300 downloads during the first three months.

The library also takes part in an experiment with the Danish e-book project, a project on making available new Danish books for digitisation, run by a publisher.

The university library has acquired two very extensive collections of older English books: *Early English Books Online* (EEBO) and *Eighteenth Century Collection Online* (ECCO). Altogether more than 250,000 titles published between 1473 and 1800. All these books can be viewed and printed in pdf-format, i.e. as close to the original appearance as possible. In 2008 more than 21,000 titles – or parts of them – were downloaded from ECCO, and from EEBO, which only became available at title level from April-May 2008, almost 14,000 titles have been downloaded already – an impressive figure considering that we are talking in terms of texts from the 15th and 16th century.

Also Oxford University Press has supplied several large book packages – however of a more recent date. This is *Oxford Scholarship Online*, which contains research literature within almost every subject area, i.a. philosophy, literature, religion, politics, economics, biology and mathematics. Here you find classics from the latter part of the 20th century, and also completely new books from 2008.

The library has decided to establish a service with loan of e-book reading devices for the students.

The aim of the project has been to move ahead in terms of supporting the use of e-books by making e-book reading devices available, thereby signalling that the library has embraced the e-book. No other major Danish research libraries are today offering a similar service on their homepages, and the library will therefore have the opportunity to place itself abreast of development. Apart from this, it is also a good chance to promote the EOD-project (eBooks on Demand) in a new way towards the users. The library today offers e-books to its borrowers/users, but not media that are directly suitable for e-books. At best it is an inconsistent offer to the users. Libraries wish to promote the e-book as a concept, but this is hampered by insufficient possibilities for using them: As only a small minority is going to read an e-book on a computer screen, the e-books are printed out instead – i.e. they are reproduced with function loss and paper waste as a result. Moreover: when more and more of the library's resources are electronic, the library must also facilitate and encourage patrons' use of these in all possible directions: the library makes PCs, printers and networks available, and sometimes lends usb-sticks and cables. The loan of e-book

devices is a natural further development of the services which the library offers today.

To sum up: the library is now seriously moving into the e-book field. Throughout this development the library has to take into consideration not only what the publishers have to offer, but also the behavioural patterns of the primary users. It won't do any good buying loads of e-books, if nobody reads them – yet!

It is fairly certain that the digital book will develop into something other than the printed book. It will become interactive, hyper textual with clicks to other information sources, and modular so that its individual parts can be used independently of each other. It is going to be very exciting, even though it might not happen for another year or so.

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.

In 2008 the Royal Library received a special grant for the preservation of the cultural heritage of DKK 6.3 million annually, and currently over a four-year period. This marked the start of the second four-year period with a special grant, and has meant that the considerable preservation endeavour could be continued to the benefit of the national collections.

Good stacks are a fundamental prerequisite for the Royal Library's collections being preserved for posterity, and in spring 2008 new stacks were completed at Njalsgade 112. Climate controlled stacks were established on five floors, each divided into two sections with motorised, movable shelves (compact shelves). The space is thereby used optimally, and in the 3,050 m² new stacks it is possible to place a total of 28,000 shelf metres. The stacks are designed so as to store the materials under the best possible conditions and – by the way – also in accordance with the Royal Library's preservation strategy, which is that the materials should be preserved for more than 500 years. Several factors must be considered like for example temperature, atmospheric humidity, atmospheric quality, fire and anti-theft protection.

The Royal Library's new stacks on Amager introduce a new standard for stacks for the preservation of the library's cultural heritage material, which is based on international experiences and the library's work with various aspects of preservation work, and it is with great pleasure that the Royal Library has begun using these stacks.

The Royal Library's nitrate negative collections are estimated to consist of about 880,000 negatives, and since 2003 they have been stored in a refrigerating container to minimize the fire risk and prolong the lifetime of the negatives. The refrigerating container is set to run on 2°C and 25% relative atmospheric humidity. The collections have been in the process of repackaging for a long time so that the negatives were ready to be moved into a permanent nitrate archive, run by the Danish Film Institute, which will also house the National Museum's nitrate negatives. In June 2008, when about half the negatives were being re-packaged, this part was moved to the Nitrate Archive in Store Dyrehave where the climate is -5° and 30% RH, and the lifetime has thus been further improved in relation to previous preservation.

Services to readers

An important part of the university library's strategy is to improve the study environment, including making sure that opening hours match the students' needs. In continuation of the extended possibilities for using the library's physical opportunities, which were introduced in 2007, one of the university library's service points, namely Faculty Library of Science and Medicine in Nørre Allé is from September 1st now open all week, in all 78 hours incl. 10-16 at weekends. The extended opening hours, particularly at weekends, are a success, as can be seen from the markedly increased number of visitors in the fourth quarter (3rd quarter 39,957 and 4th quarter 73,854). The extension of opening hours continues in the new year at the other service points.

With the inauguration of the new study environment the Faculty Library for Science and Medicine entered a new phase in the servicing of borrowers, particularly students. Copenhagen University kindly provided a grant towards the establishment, and the University and representatives for the students took part in the planning phase.

Prior to the establishment of the study environment the ground floor (Book Hall) was cleared of printed periodicals to create space for the innovation which included two quiet reading rooms, one group area and a seminar room. The quiet reading rooms are placed in the two wings in the 1989-extension; the wings have windows from floor to ceiling which creates light, airy rooms for the students' work. Both rooms feature single study seats with the users sitting vis-à-vis each other. The study seats are separated by a low partition so that each user has his own space for books and computer. There is, of course, wireless network all through and power plugs in all the tables; individual lighting is a matter of course. Great emphasis has been placed on ergonomic conditions in the design of the reading rooms. The tables are available in two heights: standard height 72 cm and also at 77 cm. You can also choose between various types of chairs, traditional desk chairs and ergonomic types of chairs. The two reading rooms also feature armchairs.

The group room is furnished with two standing sections at different height for computers for the public (the book hall's first floor has seating arrangements with computers), there is a number of group tables of various sizes, two sofa arrangements and slot machines for food and drink. The group tables are movable to match users' varying needs and this flexibility is much appreciated. Unfortunately it must be said that the room is short of plugs for laptops; this will be considered in the coming action plan concerning the library's service. The library's collection of reference books and

the curriculum collection are placed in the study environment. The curriculum collection is placed in the group room in the middle, while it has been necessary to distribute the large collection of reference books on all three premises. This poses a challenge to the signposting – a problem not yet solved in a satisfactory way. You only have to look at the number of bikes in front of the library to convince yourself that the study environment is a success.

The Black Diamond is the public 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.

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

In 2008 the National Library conducted a user satisfaction study. The purpose of this study was both to get an impression of the users' satisfaction with the reading rooms and to find out how the users are divided into a number of main groups of researchers/students/others, and also to learn something about usage patterns in terms of the individual reading rooms and the library's online offers.

The main conclusion of the study was an overall satisfaction of 83%, i.e. that 83% of the users have given the assessment 4 or 5 ("good"/"very good") as an average assessment. Highest satisfaction is given to staff service and guidance and to the library's general service. Lowest satisfaction goes to opening hours, and naturally enough particularly to the reading rooms with the shortest opening hours. It is quite clear that the reading rooms where the concordance between the reading rooms' target groups and the group of actual users is biggest are also the one awarded highest marks of satisfaction.

The users are distributed on 37% researchers, 40% students and 23% others with large differences between the reading rooms (the researcher percentage varies for example between 80% and 9%). On the other hand students from Copenhagen University make up one of the largest groups among reading room users (24.4%), while other students amount to 15.9%. The last major group of users consists of private individuals without any relation to institutions or companies. That is 18.9% of all users who do not consider themselves researchers/students or indicate a relation to publishers or any other company.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The Department of Culture in 2008 introduced a wealth of new initiatives built on the department's long-term *Action and Vision Plan 2008-2014*. The International Authors' Stage is one such initiative. Swiss author Pascal Mercier opened the stage in

June and thereby opened the door for the considerable international influx of major writers who are the main motivation behind International Authors' Stage. Amongst others Egyptian Alaa Al-Aswany, Icelandic Einar Már Gudmundsson and Swedish Liza Marklund visited the stage and attracted large audiences. Afterwards the authors signed their books in the library's bookshop the Diamond Bookshop. Cooperation partners consisted of Goethe Institut Dänemark, The German Embassy, The Norwegian Embassy and several large Danish publishing companies.

Apart from the many concert arrangements representing more or less all musical genres which are held in the library's well-functioning concert hall, a number of remarkable exhibitions should be mentioned.

Danish Prime Ministers – a Satirical Portrait showed political Danish history through satirical drawings and caricatures through 150 years. For many decades the cartoonists have contributed with their witty and pertinent comments to the political debate. The public were invited into a living room, where easy chairs, lamps, coffee tables and a television set provided the framework for the exhibition. Here one could sit back and relax and watch on TV the political events that had occasioned the drawings. With a twinkle in his eye Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen opened the exhibition. The prime minister was portrayed by cartoonist Roald Als as "the caveman" on the cover of the comprehensive exhibition catalogue.

In 2008 the Folketing handed over its entire collection of political cartoons to the Royal Library.

The exhibition presented one of the great Danes of photographic history, Jacob A. Riis in The National Museum of Photography's autumn exhibition. Jacob A. Riis emigrated in 1870 to America and became the father of social documentary photography. As a journalist and lecturer he described the slums of New York. He made his political fingerprint on the reformation of the American society – also by dint of his close friendship with the later president Theodore Roosevelt. The exhibition showed a number of Jacob A. Riis' original photographs, restored for the occasion in collaboration between the Royal Library and New York City Museum who owns the photographs.

Everything You Can Think Of Is True – the dish ran away with the spoon was a major venture in the autumn and showed a large sketchbook exhibition, staged by all-round artist Robert Wilson. The exhibition displayed a broad selection of sketches from primarily Danish artists from the 1600th to the 20th century, from the well-known to the unknown. Robert Wilson based his staging in the sketchbooks' world of possibilities and undemanding play, and he created a cockeyed and beautiful installation.

A large part of the Royal Library's concerts were performed by the library's own ensemble: The DiamondEnsemble. In September 2008 the ten musicians welcomed their audiences to season number five. After four seasons the ensemble's musicians have established an excellent teamwork. The ensemble is financed by a private company and a number of Danish foundations.

Other notable information

In 2008 the Royal Library had its research plan approved to apply for the years 2008-2011. It is the library's third research plan and replaces the plan for 2003-2007. The plans are prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Culture's guidelines and are subsequently approved by the ministry's research committee after a hearing in the Royal Library's Advisory Research Committee. The research plan for 2008-2011 differs first and foremost from its predecessor by the fact that some new subject areas have been added, partly because of the fusion between the National Library of Science and Medicine and the Royal Library in 2006, and partly because of an increased need for it-research and research into physical preservation.

The Royal Library's new student club *Students Only!* was launched on September 1st 2008 and attracted immediate and overwhelming interest. In just six weeks 2,000 had registered for the network and in spring 2009 the figure has exceeded 3,000. The massive backing punches a hole in all prejudices about young people's lack of interest in (highbrow) culture! Students at universities in the Copenhagen area flock to the cultural events in the Diamond: concerts, lectures, exhibitions tours and to exclusive *Students Only!* special arrangements with an opportunity for dialogue with researchers, lecturers and debaters, as well as last-minute offers with very low prices and special offers from the Diamond Bookshop and the library's café.

The club is organised as a network with its own homepage www.studentonly.dk and there is every indication that the modern logo has scored a bull's eye. The students log in and register – and new names are added every day.

Major celebrations

An official visit on August 30th 2008 from the American Library of Congress and the congress- and national library's sponsor group, *The Madison Council*, amounted to about 40 guests. The director, James Billington, has during his term of office consolidated and formalised the collaboration with the library's private sponsors and gathered together a large group of faithful supporters in *The Madison Council*. The members of the Council are not only the library's personal benefactors, but also act as ambassadors for the library. The guests were entertained with an arrangement in the Queen's Hall with an introduction and presentation of the Royal Library's priceless treasures, including Guaman Poma's *Inca Chronicle* and the manuscript for Karen Blixen's *Out of Africa* and Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. The visit to the Royal Library was also an encouragement to increased collaboration on mediation of international treasures via digitisation and combined search.

Danish composer Per Nørgaard was presented with the Beckett Foundation's prize of honour of DKK 1 million on October 3rd. The prize, awarded for Per Nørgaard's collective works, is the greatest musical prize ever given to a Dane. The composer holds a quite unique position on the Danish and international musical scene. The charitable trust the Beckett Foundation, which supports Art and Culture, Medical Science and Protection of the Natural Environment, was established in 1989 by the couple Birte and Paul Beckett.

Organisation

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
Danish Folklore Archive
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
Copenhagen University Library North, consisting of three departments, Department of Subject Specialists and Documentation, Process Department and Public Department/Nørre Allé
Copenhagen University Library, Slotsholmen
Copenhagen University Library, South

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.