

The Royal Library of Denmark

Annual Report 1996

The Royal Library has been and will in the coming years still be in a state of constant change and development. This is reflected in the annual report. As change and development is at the heart of the activities of the library these years the summary is not so much about the usual routine management but about the exceptional activities leading towards a new, modern and efficient library. Routine management does take place, we are open to the public in spite of all the activities caused by renovations, the building of new main stacks and the new building at the Harbourfront.

Building Planning Office

Physical changes in the form of reshuffles and moves marked 1996 to an even greater extent than 1995. A total of 188 members of staff who worked in the Hansen building, the extension from the 1960s facing the harbour, were rehoused, some on Amager, some in the huts in Chr. Brygge 12, some in the old part of the library.

While the personnel have been under a lot of pressure from the construction work, with preparations, moves and reshuffling in both 1994 and 1995, the public did not really notice the inconvenience until July 1996, when service was curtailed with the closure of Slotsholmen and with the introduction of Monday closing and other changed routines.

The library is in a serious dilemma; on the one hand, preparations for the new extended facilities have to be made, on the other hand, the public have to be served here and now. If the distribution of resources is changed in favour of better service to the public now, the consequence will be that work on the new facilities will not be ready in time, and a large number of obstructive build-ups and backlogs will hamper library service and the re-establishment of normal conditions in the years after 1998.

The building in Fiolstræde

Large sections of the collections in Fiolstræde were moved in 1995. In January and February 1996, the building was finally emptied of people, books, newspapers etc. Most functions and the majority of the staff moved to a former tobacco factory in Kronprinsesse Sophiesvej 35 in Frederiksberg. After minor refurbishment of the premises, which are owned by the Ministry of Education and are used for rehousing, the social sciences local library reopened with issuing, information room with 20 computer work stations and 32 reading places, instruction room with 20 computer work stations, and offices for the staff. The newspaper reading room, including microfilm, reference library etc. re-emerged on February 12 in Njalsgade 80, i.e. under the same roof as the rest of the library on Amager. Work on restoration and modernization of the building in Fiolstræde has proceeded according to plan.

The building on Slotsholmen

All moves and reshuffles culminated in the weeks around July 1, when the library on Slotsholmen closed to the public. The tradesmen moved into the Reading Room while the material was being moved out. Carpenters, electricians, telephone fitters, and the computer

department staff worked at high pressure to establish work places for the staff of the University Department, with all the electronic equipment that a modern work place demands. The reading room on Slotsholmen was restored a few years ago, so all the cables are on loose-fitting mountings. The installations can be easily dismantled and the reading room can be re-established without damage when the building project is finished.

At the same time as the Reading Room was being emptied and rigged up with computer equipment, the Information room was cleared of reference books, which were moved to Amager, the shelving was moved around and the issuing desk dismantled. Finally, computer and telephone connections were established in the area so that the staff from both the Music Department and the Manuscript Department could move in.

While this was going on, the Hansen building facing the harbour had been gradually emptied of people and was cleared and many things discarded. All the fittings left over after the reshuffles were disassembled and packed in containers so that they can be re-used when the staff move back again in 1998. Now the Hansen building is part of the building site on the Harbour Front. A total of almost 300 people have been moved in one way or another in 1995 and 1996, most of them once, a few twice, ca 2,000 cubic metres office furniture and materials have been moved, 80 tons refuse has been removed and just over 30,000 running metres of books, periodicals, newspapers and microfilm have been reshuffled or moved.

The building on the University of Copenhagen Campus Amager

The library on Amager has received many re-housed members of staff, not only the Newspaper Reading Room and its staff, but also colleagues from the Information and Documentation Department, the Periodicals Section from the University Department, the Post Department, the Lending Department, and the Reading Room staff have found their way to Njalsgade in the building period. The lay-out of the library on Amager has therefore been changed considerably in 1996.

The library established a temporary reading room to replace the Reading Room on Slotsholmen. The preparations included a complete reshuffle of the collections on Amager (5 running kilometres of shelving), material that is not used so frequently was taken out to be put in stacks, the information area was newly fitted out, extra pcs were set up, and a large number of shelf sections were moved. The actual move of the Slotsholmen Reading Room and its entire reference library could be implemented in only 9 days, because of the thorough preparation, and on July 9, the Reading Room reopened with 60 reading places.

The OK project

OK stands for Operation Klar (Operation Ready), and the project assignment is to make material from the existing collections in the library ready for shelving on open shelves, in preparation for use on the spot or for issuing. Books, periodicals and other materials have to be shelved on the many new running metres of shelving according to the classification system called SK2, developed by the University Department.

The permanent staff on the OK project are 5 librarians and one research librarian. The staff have a permanent base on Slotsholmen, but in addition have computer work stations in Fiolstræde/Frederiksberg, in the stack in Vasbygade, in Lergravsvej and in a corner beside the former reference collection in the old building on Slotsholmen.

In 1996, the priority for the project has been making ready material for shelving in the social science and law local library in Fiolstræde, which will reopen in August 1997. Before the move to Frederiksberg, the over 9,000 volumes in the Fiolstræde reference collection had been bar-coded in the REX online catalogue. A specially developed program was used to put in a field that is concealed from the user for the time being, which has information on the new shelf number. When the books return to Fiolstræde, they will be provided with a label on the spine with information on the new shelf number, corresponding to the field in the online catalogue. The actual field will be visible at the same time.

Under the guidance of the research librarian in the OK project, the social science subject specialists in the library have classified 32,578 monographs (physical units), that is ca 50,000 bibliographic records, and just over 600 periodicals (ca 19,000 volumes) according to the new system. The librarians engaged in the project then re-indexed the works and the periodicals were also bar-coded.

In addition to this, the subject specialists will go through the collection of added copies in the Danish Department and select relevant material for the new reading rooms, reference collections and special centres (see also under Danish Department). So far, ca 8,000 books have been selected, which have been given green strips, afterwards the OK project will index all the works selected by the subject specialists.

The IR project

The IR project (Information and Reference project for The Royal Library) completed a total concept in 1995, which states the general principles for the three service centres of the library, Slotsholmen, Fiolstræde and Amager, as regards information and reference collections. In 1996, the work continued with more detailed stipulations about the contents of the single information and reference location. In addition to this, the selection of specific titles for shelving has begun in close cooperation with the subject specialists in the library.

The work has been particularly concentrated on the contents of the collection in Fiolstræde (see also under OK project) and the collections on Slotsholmen (which is a special charge of the IR project).

When the library on Slotsholmen reopens in 1998, the public will be able to use the reference collections in the reading rooms and in special centres containing books, periodicals, newspapers, microfilm, microfiche etc. When the capacity is used to the full, these will be able to hold the equivalent of 10 km books, about 300,000 volumes.

The Royal Library has received an extraordinary 13 mio. Dkr. for acquisitions for the open shelves in the new reading rooms. The annual appropriation is 17.743.129 Dkr. this year. This extraordinary appropriation is a blessing as well as a challenge. The library has to develop methods and workroutines in order to utilize the money the best way possible and outsourcing may be a way out.

Legal Deposit and National Bibliographic Production

Legal deposit

The main basis for the building up of the collection in the Danish Department is the *Lov om Pligtaflevering* (Act on Legal Deposit) from 1927. This Act covers everything that is printed

in Denmark, but naturally enough, not electronic and audio-visual media. That is why it is of the greatest importance for the work of the Department that the "Committee on Libraries in the Information Society" (UBIS), set up by the Ministry of Culture, submitted in June 1996 its *Delbetænkning 1: Pligtaflevering* (Partial report 1: Legal Deposit), which contains proposals for a new Bill. According to this proposal, all works that are issued, irrespective of the media, must be deposited, so that the complete Danish cultural heritage, irrespective of content and issuing medium, is safeguarded and preserved.

National Bibliographic Production

The Danish Department produces part of the National Bibliography, including the *Dansk Periodicafortegnelse* (Danish Bibliography of Serials) and the national bibliographic serials registration for *Dansk Bogfortegnelse* (the Danish National Bibliography. Monographs). This is done in collaboration with the Danish Library Centre. The Department also sends publications which the editors of *Dansk Bogfortegnelse* do not seem to know about, to the Danish Library Centre.

ISSN DANMARK, which is part of the Danish Department, participates in the cooperative ISSN Network and sends its registrations of Danish serials to the ISSN Centre in Paris, where they are part of the ISSN base.

The other national bibliographic products of the Department are *Impressa publica Regni Danici = Bibliografi over Danmarks offentlige publikationer*, *Dania Polyglotta* and *Index Translationum*. One of the goals set by the Danish Department for 1996 was to have updated the printed editions of *Impressa* and *Dania Polyglotta*. The goal was achieved with the year's publications, which are also in REX2, the library online catalogue, where they are continuously updated.

The building up of a retrospective national bibliography continues with work on *Danske Provinstryk 1482-1830 (Bibliography of local imprints)*. In 1996, the work was transferred to the Research Department.

The collections

The naming of The National Museum of Photography was marked in September. The establishment of a proper photograph museum means that the historical photograph collection, hitherto an integrated part of The Royal Library collections of prints and photographs, has now been made accessible, to the benefit of research as well as the ordinary members of the public, who will be able to see works from the library itself and from other places in various exhibitions.

In December 1996, the library collections were augmented with the Wilhelm Hansen Music Publishers Archives, after the Commission on Export of Cultural Assets, in its last action in 1996, refused the export license, and handed the archives over to The Royal Library.

Wilhelm Hansen Music Publishers has been the major music publisher in the Nordic countries for 150 years. The close on 130 removal boxes contain ca 1,200 manuscript scores, ca 1.5 million letters and a considerably sized business archive. It is one of the largest and most important single acquisitions of the library in this century.

Automation, Data-processing and Retro-conversion

The information technology development in the library is going on over a wide front, but the most central is the work with preparations for the development of a new library system to replace the REX online catalogue, and work with digitalization of the collections.

DD projects (Digitized collections on Document servers)

1996, the middle year of the 3-year lifetime of the DD Project, was marked by progress and breakthroughs. The cd-rom net came in place and work speeded up on setting up the "client" machines in institutes in the University of Copenhagen. The new up-graded equipment in the picture digitalization project started so well that capacity was doubled. Work on the World Wide Web server continued, and 1996 was the year when a practicable, i.e. inexpensive, way was found for web publication of subject bibliographic bases, handbooks, poetry collections and much book material, which are increasingly made available by authors and publishers, or which are not subject to copyright protection against OCR scanning or other forms of "data capture".

The exertions for this development were not only internal efforts, but were well boosted by the resources provided for the department from the Ministry of Research and the Ministry of Culture in return for advanced web services. The contract with the Ministry of Research expired, it is true, and "<http://www.fsk.dk>" was moved to TeleDanmark, but the Research Councils stayed, and the Ministry of Culture came on the web permanently. The project *Dansk Kulturtidsskrifter 1917-1945* (Danish Cultural Periodicals 1917 - 1945) was launched with money from Culture Net Denmark, and just under 1,000 pages of *Clarté* and *Kritisk Revy* were put on the net, "double digitalized", both as graphics and as full text. The DD projects have operated the cultural IT initiative central server for and on Culture Net Denmark, been WebHotel for State cultural institutes and information technology projects - and given help so that institutes and projects came on the server with homepage and information. In all, the servers operated by the DD projects have ca 10,000 referrals per day.

Retro section

The Royal Library electronic online catalogue, REX, contained 2.142.564 bibliographic records at the end of 1996, but not all the card catalogues have been converted yet. The Royal Library Retro section over the years has developed a method for, and gained great experience in, semi-automatic conversion of card catalogues to records in MARC format.

At the end of 1996, a total of 960,000 retrievable records were available. During the year, the Retro Section converted 316,924 records, the 116,924 have been made retrievable in REX, while the 200,000 are accessible in a newly-developed catalogue base on the library Web. This catalogue base contains the Manuscript Department letter index, one of the most used catalogues in the department.

Conservation and preservation

Preservation work in 1996 has been primarily concentrated on implementing the decisions that were made in 1995, when a new preservation policy was adopted and the department was restructured. In addition, the department has two method development projects: "Effects of freeze-drying on paper" (expected to be finished in 1997) and "Sound and sound tape conservation" (pilot project). The results of these projects will be incorporated in the future plans of the library, in part for handling large-scale water damage, for example after a fire, and in part for how the sound-tape collections in the library can be preserved.

The Preservation Department is involved in several international projects. The Photographic Section as well as the Bookbinding and Conservation Workshop are engaged in an aid project in Ghana, and the Bookbinding and Conservation Workshop are also active in a project in Lithuania. In addition, the Head of Preservation participates in the UNESCO "Memory of the World Program - Technical Subcommittee", which is an international standardization project for archive and library services and in the Swedish "Research and development project for paper preservation".

The Bookbinding and Conservation Workshop has procured a CMI Box Machine from the USA, which is of great value, not only in connection with preservation, but also because it will help the library to save valuable stack space. A lot of material is stored for the sake of preservation in book and archive boxes in the so-called tied files. These are manufactured in a standard size, not according to the size of what has to be stored, so this material takes up an unnecessary amount of space in the stacks, and the material is not always appropriately stored in them. The new machine can make four different types of boxes and tied files, according to individual measurements, so the library can now "custom-tailor" boxes etc. for the particularly fragile material, without entailing unnecessary waste of space in the stacks. The machine, which is the first of its kind within the Danish museum, archive and library services, opens up many perspectives for the future storage of delicate items.

Public Relations

Exhibitions

The Royal Library participated in Copenhagen, Cultural Capital of Europe 96, with its largest exhibition until now, "Copenhagen - Gateway to Europe". The exhibition which consisted of three sections was located in the recently renovated "Galejsal" (Hall of the Galleys) in The Royal Library, the Danish Parliament's lobby in Provianthuset (House of Naval Storage), and the exhibition hall in the Museum of Royal Danish Arsenal. The library, the National Archives and the Museum of Royal Danish Arsenal collaborated on the exhibition. The Public Relations Department acted as coordinator, joint secretariat, took care of the marketing and conducted tours etc. On account of the building activities in the library, this project was the only new exhibition in 1996.

A lecture series was arranged in connection with the Cultural City exhibition.

The exhibition *F.L.Ae.Kunzen (1761-1817)*, which was shown in The Royal Library in 1995, was shown in 1996 in Bibliothek der Hansestadt Lübeck and in Schleswig-Holsteinisches Landesbibliothek in Kiel. The latter library is one of the permanent partners of The Royal Library as regards exhibitions.

The library arranged 7 minor exhibitions in the central hall on Slotsholmen

International Cooperation

The annual meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) will be held in 1997 in Bella Center in Copenhagen. Throughout 1996, the IFLA secretariat has worked on preparations for this large joint library occasion. The secretariat is staffed among others by an employee from The Royal Library, and is housed in one of the library departments, which could find room for the IFLA conference staff, in spite of the cramped conditions on account of the building projects.