

The digital National Library

At the end of 2013 there was a great deal of international interest in the National Library of Norway, focusing on the ongoing project to digitise its collection and make it available online – a major cultural and political commitment, of which **bokhylla.no** is the most important example. Thanks to publicity in leading international media channels and many hundreds of Twitter messages around the world, visitors from every continent searched on **nb.no**. It is clear to other countries, including those outside Europe, that the National Library of Norway has made great strides in terms of devising strategies for and development of digital services for the preservation of and access to our cultural heritage and treasury of knowledge.

Bokhylla

By the end of 2013, the National Library's digital bookshelf at bokhylla.no included 157,000 titles. During 2013, more than 63.5 million page views were recorded within the digital National Library, an increase of 24 per cent over 2012.

The expanded collective licence agreement is a vital part of the agreement that the National Library has entered into with Kopinor in order to provide access to all the books published in Norway up to and including the year 2000. During 2013 the National Library of Norway received enquiries from many European organisations interested in studying the Norwegian model.

Making the collection available digitally

In total, approximately 487 million page views were recorded on the National Library's website in 2013. This is twice as many as in 2012. Digital content can be made available if the material has passed into the public domain or when agreements have been entered into with the rights holders. Under such agreements, in 2013 an additional 33,000 new book titles were made available under the Bokhylla agreement, and 150,000 new newspaper editions were made available under agreements with a number of newspaper publishers.

Increased use of historic newspaper archives

The digital newspaper service provides access to historic newspaper archives and is available to all Norwegian libraries. To date, this service has been adopted by about 370 libraries in Norway. During the year the content has increased from about 200,000 to 350,000 newspaper editions, and 1.5 million newspaper pages have been displayed.

Participation with digital content in international online libraries

During 2013 the National Library has continued its work to contribute content to the Europeana collection and the EFG (European Film Gateway), TEL (The European Library), the Electronic Memory of the Arctic and the World Digital Library.

During 2013 the National Library digitised:

- 58,000 books (9.7 million book pages)
- 167,000 newspaper editions (3.2 million newspaper pages)

- 52,000 photographs
- 56,000 pages of handwritten documents and music manuscripts
- 52,000 hours of historic radio material
- 200 films
- 3,800 recordings from various tape formats and 78s

Long-term digital preservation

The total capacity of the National Library's trusted digital repository has increased from 12 to 18 petabytes. All content is stored in three different copies, so the space reserved for unique content is now about 6 petabytes.

Digital television programmes broadcast by NRK, the Norwegian national broadcaster, are copied automatically to the National Library in production quality.

National library policy and library development

The National Library is a national centre of expertise and resources for other institutions within the library and culture sector. New this year is the scholarly series **Biblioteca Nova**, which features technical articles relevant to those working locally in library development. In 2013 the National Library distributed NOK 21.5 million in project and development funds to libraries. Following the Norwegian general election in September 2013, the new government increased the "pot" by NOK 6 million. These funds are earmarked for projects working to develop the public libraries as independent meeting places and arenas for public discussion and debate.

The National Library also produces poster exhibitions, which are sent to the public libraries. As a rule, these exhibitions are related to the National Library's main exhibitions and commemorations of national interest. The National Library is also working to develop a common national library search system. Another service that is benefiting all Norwegian libraries is the facility for remote loans from the depot library. The book collection in the depot library consists of about 1 million volumes. Some 180,000 loans were made from this collection in 2013, an increase of 9.3 per cent over 2012.

Research infrastructure

The steadily increasing digital content in the collection represents a new resource in the research context that to date has only been utilised to a limited degree. By providing access to extensive textual, audio and image-based sources on Norwegian culture and social history, the National Library provides Norwegian research with an international advantage in the research area known as "digital humanities". Leveraging this potential will be an important focus area in the years to come.

Språkbanken ("The Language Bank") offers digital language resources for use in research and in the development of language technology. The National Library is participating in the CLARINO research project, the objective of which is to develop a common infrastructure for Norwegian language databases, which in turn will be linked to databases abroad.

Participation in research projects

The National Library of Norway has contributed to research projects by making source material available digitally and in the form of independent research contributions. During 2013 the National Library arranged eight research conferences with international participation.

- Two new titles have been published in the National Library's scholarly series *Nota Bene*. Two new editions of the magazine *NB21* were also published.

During 2013 the National Library has developed special bibliographies for:

- Camilla Collett's literary work
- The reception of Søren Kierkegaard in Norway
- Literature from and about 1812–1814
- Filmography for Norwegian cinema films

In the bibliographic field, the work to translate WebDewey continued.

Beacon for Freedom of Expression

In 2013 there has been a marked increase in activity in connection with this database. Approximately 500 new items (literature about censorship and incidents that led to the censorship of various media) have been identified, 100 more than in the previous year. There has been an increase of about 30 per cent in the number of visits (82,000) and page views (396,000) on the www.beaconforfreedom.org website.

Collection trends

Most types of material show only minor variations in legal deposit numbers in 2013 in comparison with previous years. The most important change is for e-books, where there has been an increase from 313 in 2012 right up to 2,048 in 2013.

Harvesting of .no domains

The current permit from the Norwegian Data Protection Authority precludes the general harvesting of .no domains. At present the National Library is only permitted to download from selected websites after having informed the sites' owners. In total approximately 1 billion files were harvested in 2013.

The National Library in Oslo experienced a small increase in visitor numbers (up to 105,000), and there are waiting lists to be allocated researcher places. There were three major exhibitions in 2013, compared with four the previous year. The reduction in the number of

exhibitions has been made in order to be able to prioritise resources for promotional measures that have a greater potential public audience.

In connection with the celebration of Norway's national Language Year, *Språkåret*, the library held a national language competition for secondary-school pupils and upper-secondary-school students. Prizes were awarded to nine winning contributions, received from schools in all parts of Norway.

The National Library in the media

The National Library's digitisation project has been covered in many leading international news media channels, such as:

BBC

New York Daily News

The Independent

The Huffington Post

The Atlantic

The publicity in the foreign press also renewed interest among the Norwegian media.

The National Library has also received excellent press coverage for its exhibitions, in connection with the handover of the ECM material and for the language competition. The debate over the criteria to be used when marking writers also put the National Library in the spotlight.

During the period 2013–2017 the National Library will be focusing on the following tasks:

- Expanding bokhylla.no to include all Norwegian books published up to and including the year 2000
- Continuing the digitisation programme
- Organising the collections in order to facilitate research use
- Arranging online access to copyrighted material by means of agreements
- Increasing the availability of the collection by exposing metadata and digital content to the major search engines
- Continuing the exhibitions and cultural programme, as well as arranging technical seminars and conferences that actively and purposefully promote the collection
- Increased accession of legally deposited and other material in digital form
- Filling historical gaps in the collection and supplementing it with additional material that increases the collection's value for research and documentation and for use in other libraries
- Ensuring secure long-term digital preservation of cultural-heritage material for our own and others' collections
- Developing new forms of knowledge organisation and retrieval
- Supplementing the legally deposited collection
- Implementing the consequences of the new Legal Deposit Act
- Establishing and further developing strategic partnerships within core areas
- Adapting and extending our buildings in preparation for issues to come

Some important acquisitions for the National Library's collection in 2013

- Godfred Hansen (journal from Roald Amundsen's expedition through the Northwest Passage)
- Knut Hamsun (letters to Marie Hamsun)
- Edvard Munch (letters to the art historian Curt Glaser)
- *NorskSangerlag* (Norwegian Choral Society – organisation's archive)
- *Studenterhjemmetav 1875* (student residence – organisation's archive)
- Kalvøya Festival (organisation's archive)
- ECM Records (master tapes archive)