

**CENL ANNUAL REPORT 2006**  
**THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF ICELAND**

**1. Management of the library: performance indicators, planning, decision-making, evaluation, mission statement**

On April 1st 2007, Ingibjörg Steinunn Sverrisdóttir was appointed as National Librarian due to the retirement of Dr. Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir former National Librarian. A new Library Board was also appointed in october 2006.

In December 2005 a Performance Management Contract between the library and The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports was signed. It states two main objectives, to provide digital access to Icelandic heritage in print and on manuscripts and to ensure that the academic community and the general public have good access to the worlds knowledge using information technology. Other fields of emphasis are general access to the library building and finding ways to serve the blind and handicapped, employee policy, equal rights policy and IT policy.

**2. Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation**

A new digitization policy was formed and also a policy on web-harvesting. See section 8.

A new contract between the library and the Ministry of Education, regarding national licences to electronic journals and databases, was signed in 2006. The library runs the project in cooperation with other libraries in the country. Some new licences have been signed and now the whole nation has access to 14.000 full-text journals and 12 databases through the web [www.hvar.is](http://www.hvar.is)

**3. Funding**

Measures were taken to deal with a constant overdraft which was reduced considerably in the year 2006. The library received extra central funding for digitization projects and the national licences to electronic resources.

**4. Legislation**

An act concerning the unification of the University of Iceland and The Iceland University of Education was passed in March 2007. The new university will start in 2008.

A committee is working on the revision of the laws concerning the National and University Library and laws concerning the National Archives.

**5. Buildings**

Extra funding was granted in 2006 for renovation and upgrading of the deposit library in Reykholt.

## **6. Staffing matters**

Due to rationalization the number of employees has reduced and also number of full time positions. In the end of 2006 there were 98 employees in 83.7 full time positions.

Employee assessment on an individual basis was taken into use in 2005 and resulted in higher salaries in 2005 and 2006. A program of internal courses for staff was initiated in 2006.

## **7. Information technology and networks**

The Icelandic library system Gegnir (Aleph from ExLibris) [www.gegnir.is](http://www.gegnir.is) is running smoothly but it was opened in 2003. Now there are 265 libraries, library branches and institutions connected to the system. Midyear 2006 the library system switched to version 16, and at the same time hosting was moved to a new provider. Data from several libraries were migrated to Gegnir, thus finishing the third and final phase of the library system implementation. Gegnir is run by Consortium of Icelandic Libraries Inc.

A new website for the library [www.landsbokasafn.is](http://www.landsbokasafn.is) was launched in 2005 and now all electronic bibliographies and catalogues are available through that site along with digital projects and services to the academic community. An electronic catalogue of Icelandic doctors and doctoral theses was launched in 2006 [www.doktor.bok.hi.is](http://www.doktor.bok.hi.is) and the first electronic version of The Icelandic National Bibliography [www.utgafuskra.is](http://www.utgafuskra.is) A new database for cataloguing of manuscript collections was taken into use. It has not been opened to the public.

A new records management system GoPro.net was taken into use in January 2007. According to Icelandic laws all institutions shall maintain a system over their records.

## **8. The digital library**

The Icelandic Digital National Library has two main objectives:

- to provide digital access to Icelandic heritage in print and on manuscripts
- and to ensure that the academic community and the general public have good access to the worlds knowledge using information technology.

A new digitization policy was formed and the work was intensified with the purchase of a new digital camera. Now all Icelandic newspapers and periodicals up to 1920 are available on the web [www.timarit.is](http://www.timarit.is) and in the next phase all newspapers will be digitized up to 2000 and all books up to 1900. The policy aims at offering added access to Icelandic material owned by the Library through systematic digitisation and access through the Internet. Simultaneously the Library aims at collecting material that is born digital, making it available and preserving it for the future. The objectives for the development of the digital national library are as follows:

- a. **Distribution of information about the Icelandic cultural heritage.** To publicise and facilitate access to the Icelandic written cultural heritage, by making it available beyond the walls of the Library. This is done in full cooperation with those that hold the copyright to the material in question.
- b. **Preservation for the future.** To preserve the documents in original form. Documents that are in physical form shall also be preserved in digital form in order to minimize the use of the originals. The documents that are only available in digital form are preserved for the future and access to them secured.
- c. **Service to the users.** To meet the needs of users, wherever they are, by making Icelandic material accessible on the Internet. The Library will also make an effort to facilitate the location of digital form of a document by linking it to the cataloguing posts in Gegnir, the nation-wide library system.

The digital library now consists mainly of Periodicals and newspapers ([www.timarit.is](http://www.timarit.is)), Saganet, Icelandic medieval literature ([sagnanet.is](http://sagnanet.is)) and Maps ([kort.bok.hi.is](http://kort.bok.hi.is)).

Webharvesting started in 2005 and a new policy was also formed in that area. According to Legal Deposit Laws from 2002 the library shall collect and preserve websites and other material that are published or made available to the public on the Icelandic part of the Internet .is, and also material in Icelandic or by Icelandic parties on other domains.

Now the national domain .is is harvested three times a year and also Icelandic related webpages on .net .com .org etc. A Special events harvest is once a year (in 2006 the elections of local government) and about 40 web sites are harvested every time they change.

The library works in collaboration with IIPC (International Internet Preservation Consortium). A Heritrix web crawler, which is an open source system, is used to harvest the web. The collection is not available but IIPC is actively working on that matter. Staff from the library has been involved with the development of Heritrix and also an add-on module for excluding pages that have not changed between harvests.

A new contract between the library and the Ministry of Education, regarding national licences to electronic journals and databases, was signed in 2006. The library runs the project in cooperation with other libraries in the country. In 2006 contracts for the next three years were made with suppliers. Also a new payment model for the participating libraries and institution was formed. The state pays 20% of the whole package, university libraries 36%, medical libraries 20%, research libraries 12%, ministries and governing sector 8% and the private sector 4%. Use of the electronic journals and databases increases every year.

A meta search engine TD-net was taken into use on the website [www.hvar.is](http://www.hvar.is). The user can now search in all the article- and databases simultaneously.

## 9. Legal deposit of materials

There have been no changes in this field. The Icelandic Legal Deposit Act is from 2002 and new laws or regulations are not under way. The laws apply to all published material or material made available to the public, regardless of format.

## **10. Acquisitions**

The library acquired a number of manuscripts from Icelandic authors, politicians and scholars. The library also received a number of book gifts. More emphasis is made each year to acquire electronic material. The national licences have made it possible to cut acquisition of foreign journals in paper format.

## **11. Preservation & Conservation**

A security specialist from The Royal Library in Copenhagen evaluated security matters in the library. He delivered a report that was introduced to the Ministry of Education. The first measures to meet the demands in the report were put on project plan for 2007. Also the premises in Reykholt were renovated see Section 5

The Library stopped filming newspapers on microfilms. The older issues of newspapers will be digitized in the next three years according to the new digitization policy and recent copies will be collected in pdf format. Digitization is now the main method for conservation in another format, see section 8.

Ongoing investigation on the condition of manuscripts in the library started in 2004.

## **12. Services to readers**

The use of information service increased fx in enquiries by e-mail, reference service for doctoral students and personal guidance and teaching related to databases and electronic material. 92 courses in information literacy for students were held in 2006. Use of electronic material, both born digital and digitized is ever increasing. The Inter library loans department acquired a new machine for skanning journal articles. Now a majority of journal articles that are sent from the library are in electronic format, the exception is when copy-right laws do not authorize it. Inter library loans are increasing in books but decreasing in articles. A slow decrease is in lending activity.

## **13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing**

Nine exhibitions, big and small, based on material from the library were openend. The biggest ones were *Darkness and evil : Reykjavík in detective stories* and *The longing to know and to learn*, about the priest and folklore scholar Jonas Jonsson from Hrafnagil. The artist Gerður Guðmundsdóttir showed woolen felt works with embroidered letters from Icelandic manuscripts.

The 10<sup>th</sup> wolume of *Ritmennt* was published and also a facsimile of the article *Few words about Icelandic handwriting* by Björn Karel Þórólfsson.

Three public lectures were held by members of the staff 1. About web-harvesting, 2. Cataloguing of manuscripts and letters, and 3. Preservation of library material.

Articles and books by library staff is now available on the library website

**14. Library co-operation**

The library participated in international, Nordic and local cooperation in several ways. Fx in IFLA, CDNL, CENL, IIPC, Noron, Nordbib, NOSP and EDL.

**15. Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)**

**16. Other notable information**

**17. Organisation chart**



