

Take On Me



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2010

The National Library of Norway



Nasjonalbiblioteket
National Library of Norway



The exhibition *Hunting High and Low: 25 years with a-ha* attracted thousands of visitors to the National Library of Norway during the last three months of the year. The pop group's visit to the library and the influx of their fans from Norway and around the world brought a positive end to an eventful year for the National Library – a year in which a number of important milestones were reached, new co-operation agreements were signed and the Library's mandate was extended to also include responsibility for developing a national library policy.

The biggest change for the National Library in 2010 was the transfer of library responsibilities from ABM-utvikling (the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority) as of 1 July. The autumn was spent revising strategy and organisation in line with the new mandate. On the

basis of its own experiences and services, the National Library will have particular responsibility for developing and strengthening libraries in Norway as active and relevant community institutions, based on local identity. This objective will be achieved by:

- acting as a central infrastructure for all libraries
- arranging for the use of digital content and the development of new digital services
- publicising and distributing project resources within prioritised development areas in order to stimulate the development of improved library services
- maintaining a dialogue with libraries and library owners
- administering the Norwegian Act relating to public libraries

The digital National Library

Bokhylla (“Bookshelf”), the online library of Norwegian works, has continued to be an important part of the commitment by the National Library of Norway to digital services in 2010. The goal of having 50,000 copyrighted books available through the service was achieved towards the end of 2010. Evaluation of the project began at the end of the year and will continue in 2011. The service has been a success, both in terms of use and demand; from late May 2009, when bokhylla.no was launched, up to the end of 2010 almost 28 million pages were viewed (27,904,487 to be exact).

- In total, more than 56 million page views have been recorded on the National Library’s website – an increase of more than 50 per cent over 2009
- In 2010 a digital reading room and media library were set up in Oslo
- In 2010 priority was given to the digitisation of books, newspapers, photographs, handwritten documents, music manuscripts, radio and at-risk sound and video formats
- Agreements were signed in 2010 on co-operation on digitisation projects with the newspapers *Stavanger Aftenblad*, *Trønder-Avisa* and *Asker og Bærum Budstikke*. As part of these agreements,



You can search and read 50,000 Norwegian books on bokhylla.no. Photo: Cedric Archer

the National Library acquired the right to provide access to the digital editions of these newspapers in Norwegian libraries

- The total storage capacity in the digital vault was approximately 6.9 petabytes
- 9,000 titles included as part of NB-digital were available as downloadable PDFs, and there were a total of 20,317 downloads

Research and development

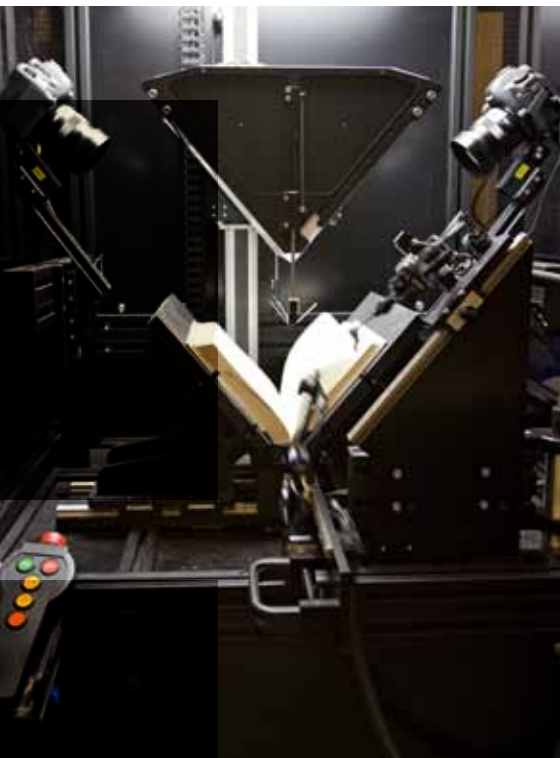


Photo: Anne Tove Ørke/National Library of Norway

Technical and research projects:

- The Bjørnson bibliography
- A bibliography of the music of Henrik Wergeland
- Participation as a partner in major technical and research projects, including the digitisation of research projects in the university sector:
 - ▷ The works of Henrik Ibsen
 - ▷ The Svartebok (“Black Book”) project at the University of Oslo
- Publication of issue 2 of the scholarly series *Nota Bene*, entitled *The Archive in Motion: New Conceptions of the Archive in Contemporary Thought and New Media Practice*
- Other publications via technical channels, such as articles in *Library and Information History*, *Prosa* and *Norsk litteraturvitenskapelig tidsskrift* (the Norwegian Journal of Literary Science)
- As part of the state budget for 2010, the National Library was tasked with establishing a Norwegian language bank. The language bank is a service provided to the part of the commercial sector that works to develop language-based IT, to researchers in the fields of linguistics and language technology, and to public organisations that develop electronic solutions for public services
- Arranging technical conferences and seminars on behalf of the National Library
 - ▷ The annual FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives) congress
 - ▷ The photographic conference *The Ends of Photography*
 - ▷ The international Bjørnson conference
- The Musikkarv (“Music Heritage”) project, the objective of which is to ensure that manuscripts of Norwegian classical music are preserved and made available

Public accessibility and visits

In 2010 the National Library of Norway hosted three main exhibitions, five mini-exhibitions and 61 events. Visitor numbers were at the same level as the previous year, with approximately 170,000 visitors. Lending from the collections increased slightly to more than 200,000 loans. There was a fall in the lending of microfilm and an increase in remote lendings of 10.7 per cent compared with 2009. The digital library had over 25 million viewings of digital content in 2010 – more than three times the number for the previous year.



Rarely has an exhibition been more crowded: the a-ha exhibition ran for three months and attracted thousands of visitors. Photo: Jina Chang/

National Library of Norway

Main exhibitions in 2010

- *Kamera går! Film i Norge gjennom hundre år* (The Camera Is Running! 100 years of cinema in Norway). 2,158 visitors
- *Bautaaen Bjørnson: Stridsmann, fredsvenn, diktarhovding* (The Monumental Bjørnson: Champion of causes, friend of peace, leader of poets). 5,288 people visited the physical exhibition at the National Library. The poster-and-digital version of the Bjørnson exhibition was made available to all Norwegian libraries. 170 local libraries created exhibitions based on these resources
- *Hunting High and Low: a-ha gjennom 25 år* (25 years with a-ha). 7,993 visitors

to the physical exhibition. Digital exhibition also available at nb.no

The Bjørnson Year

In 2010 the National Library had the national responsibility for marking the 100th anniversary of the death of Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. The writer was commemorated in a number of ways:

- Three national events: in Oslo in collaboration with the Norwegian National Theatre, in Maihaugen/Aulestad in collaboration with Maihaugen, and in Molde in collaboration with the Bjørnson Festival
- HM King Harald was the royal patron of the Bjørnson Year
- Launch of www.bjornstjerne.no
- The National Library published two books: *Bjørnson i Kamp for Europas undertrykte minoriteter* (Bjørnson and the Fight for Europe's Oppressed Minorities) and *Bjørnsons sangskatt* (Bjørnson's Song Treasury)
- The Bjørnson bibliography
- An international research conference in collaboration with the University of Oslo

A separate report on the Bjørnson Year is available at www.bjornstjerne.no

In 2010 the National Library participated in the planning of the Nansen–Amundsen Year (2011) and other anniversaries running until 2014.



This rock version of Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson was part of the poster exhibition that was put on at 170 Norwegian libraries during the Bjørnson Year.

Photo: Ketil Born/National Library of Norway

Norwegian online encyclopaedia

Over three years, the DnB NOR Savings Bank Foundation, the Fritt Ord foundation and the Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association have given grants worth a total of NOK 31.5 million for the creation of a new online encyclopaedia. The goal of the Norwegian online encyclopaedia is to create a new digital knowledge base online. The National Library is responsible for the infrastructure and the development of the user interface. The online encyclopaedia will be linked to the National Library's databases of digitised books, images and films.

Photo: Marte-Kline Sandengen/National Library of Norway



United on the online encyclopaedia: Ole Petter Ottersen, rector of the University of Oslo; Trond Andreassen, general secretary of the Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association; Vigdis Moe Skarstein, National Librarian; Francis Sejersted, chairman of the board of Fritt Ord; Nils Christian Stenseth, vice president of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters; and Frode Helgerud, director of the DnB NOR Savings Bank Foundation.

The National Library in the media

The National Library of Norway started the new year with a news item that received a great deal of coverage in both broadcast and print media nationally: a package of letters, written by Knut Hamsun "to a young girl", had been restricted for 50 years. On 4 January the package was opened in the National Library in the presence of Hamsun experts, the minister of culture Anniken Huitfeldt and members of the press. A digital narrative based on the letters was created and made available on nb.no.

Other events that put the National Library in the media spotlight in 2010 included:

- The Bjørnson Year. All the Bjørnson events have been much discussed and widely covered in the media, and members of the Norwegian royal family have been present on a number of occasions. The Bjørnson Year and the marking of the writer's anniversary in general have been debated throughout the year and have received good media coverage
- Other main exhibitions, especially the a-ha exhibition, have received wide media coverage. The a-ha exhibition was covered on the NRK news programme *Dagsrevyen* and elsewhere
- The digitisation agreements covering both *Stavanger Aftenblad* and *Trønder-Avisa*. The agreements involve the digital provision and digitisation of the newspapers' historical archives. The material will be made available to the public via a digital service in the National Library and other Norwegian libraries

- The transfer of library responsibilities from ABM-utvikling (the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority) to the National Library
- The Norwegian online encyclopaedia
- bokhylla.no and the digitisation programme in general

In addition to maintaining visibility in the media, the National Library has been active in social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

The collection – new acquisitions

The collection is being systematically built up using new compulsorily provided documents and also material transferred from other libraries to the Depot Library. Examples of important new acquisitions include:

- A collection of 216 posters from Bruno Oldani
- A collection of popular literature from Willy Bakken – about 5,000 volumes of

paperbacks and serial instalments from 1950 to 2000, with a particular emphasis on crime and Western literature from 1950 to 1980

- 200 master tapes from the record company Manu Music
- Agnar Mykle's archive
- Arne Garborg: some letters to Idar Handagard
- Nils Nordberg: Radioteatret (NRK radio theatre) direction books



In 2010 the National Library acquired the collection of the musician, cultural historian and writer Willy Bakken, better known as Willy B.

Photo: Frode Skjold

During 2010 a new service was created within NBdigital to provide access to digital newspapers. The service was made available for users in the National Library premises in 2010. Newspapers with which the National Library has entered agreements regarding co-operation on digitisation will be made available via the same service in Norwegian libraries during 2011.

During 2010 the National Library launched a pilot version of Biblioteksøk ("Library Search"), which will gradually replace the general catalogue of books that is currently in use. The pilot provides access to a simple search interface, data from a handful of libraries, and a blog that enables communication with anyone who is interested in following developments.

Some key figures

At the end of 2010 the National Library had 387 permanent employees

Including NRK's district broadcasts, there are now 35 radio stations and TV channels being delivered digitally

Number of visitors to the library: 167,709

More than 1.1 million searches were made in NBdigital, representing an increase of more than 50 per cent over 2009

In 2010, approximately 213,000 objects were digitised by the National Library's digitisation programme