

# THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NORWAY

## ANNUAL REPORT 1997 TO CENL

### **Introduction**

The Norwegian Parliament decided in the autumn of 1993 that the National Library should consist of the Rana Division, established in 1989, and a new division in Oslo, based on the national functions of the University of Oslo Library, and that the organisation should be headed by a National Librarian with offices located in Oslo. The National Librarian was appointed as of January 1, 1994, with the main task to make plans for and to build up the new organisation.

The Oslo Division will be formally established as of January 1, 1999. At the same time, it will take over the present building of the University of Oslo Library, and the latter will move to a new location at the university campus. Personnel and resources connected to national library functions will remain and constitute the basis of the Oslo Division of the National Library.

### **The office of the National Librarian**

In 1997 additional staff was employed:

- An Office Manager who shall also co-ordinate the administrative routines of the head office and the two divisions and assist in the planning for the future Oslo Division.
- A Legal Advisor with responsibilities especially related to copyright and legal deposit
- A Senior Executive Officer, responsible for library subject matters in co-operation with the two divisions

During 1997, negotiations with the University of Oslo concerning national library resources to be taken over by the National Library, were mostly concluded. The building of the University of Oslo Library (from 1913) is protected by preservation regulations, but the plans made in 1997 for renovation and internal reconstruction have been accepted. In addition, plans have also been made for building new storage facilities underground, connected to the main building.

Building up a national library consisting of two divisions situated far apart, necessitates highly developed IT resources. During 1997, IT communications between Oslo and Rana have been improved, and further development in this field is being worked out. Such expertise is also considered important in view of our participation in external projects, nationally and internationally.

The National Library will, from 1999, take over the responsibility for the National Committee on Cataloguing and the National Committee on Classification and Indexing.

The National Library is preparing a set of guidelines concerning copyright regulations; this also in view of the development of the EU directives. The question of copyright versus legal deposit is of special interest in relation to electronic documents.

### **The National Library, Oslo Division**

The Oslo division shall provide services to the general public and constitute a centre for Norwegian literature, past and present, and any other kind of documents published in Norway, and deposited according to the Act on Legal Deposit. The collections of the Oslo Division will consist of several special collections (such as music, manuscripts, maps and photographs/posters etc.), Nordic literature and foreign literature on Norway and Norwegians. The division will constitute a national centre of competence at the service of the country as a whole, and secure availability of the collections to libraries and the general public and see to it that easy access to requested material is made possible by way of continually updated databases. The division will be responsible for the Norwegian National Bibliography and the Union Catalogue.

A Director for the Oslo Division, Mrs. Sissel Nilsen, was engaged as of January 1, 1998. Mrs. Nilsen, who is presently the Chair of the IFLA Professional Board, will, together with the National Librarian, continue the planning of the future division to ensure that the division will be operational as of January 1, 1999, when the National Library will take over the building and the national library functions presently performed by the University of Oslo Library. In addition, five new employees will be engaged in the fall this year so that the administration of the new division will function properly as of the same date.

### **The National Library, Rana Division**

The Rana Division was established in 1989 and is situated in Mo i Rana, a little south of the Arctic Circle. The main task of the division is the administration of the Act on Legal Deposit, i.e. the division receives all deposited documents on paper, microforms, photographs, combined documents, electronic documents and the radio and television recordings from the Norwegian Broadcasting Corp. The Rana Division shall store a security copy of the above-mentioned documents, video tapes and phonograms. Moreover, an audio-visual archive and a laboratory have been built up, which conserve and make available older audio-visual collections. The division has a depository library, securing re-use of older material and interlending services.

In 1997 the Section on Bibliography and the Section on Legal Deposit were reorganised to form one section, "The Centre for Legal Deposit".

As of 1997, the responsibility for Norwegian newspapers was transferred from the University of Oslo Library to the Rana Division. This includes the main responsibility for the lending of microfilm copies.

A new project, "Munin", to develop a strategy for conservation, was started in 1997.

A pilot project concerning the legal deposit of electronic periodicals, was carried through.

Interlending requests from libraries increased by 36% in 1997 and legal deposit of radio and television recordings increased by 12%.

As a consequence of the expertise acquired in the field of preservation and safeguarding of the cultural heritage, the Rana Division has played an important role in the preparation of a first draft for a national plan for the protection, conservation and accessibility of sound recordings. The draft report was presented in September. This plan is part of a bigger project which also includes photographs.

A pilot project was started together with the Norwegian Broadcasting Corp. (NRK) to develop a digital archive for broadcasting material, based on NRK's historical archive.

At the request of the Ministry of Culture, the Rana Division has made extensive preparations to prepare the ground for establishing "Kulturnett Norge" (the Culture Net Norway).

In 1995 NORDINFO founded three Nordic centres of excellence within the field of electronic libraries and information services, and the Centre of Excellence for Digital Handling of National Library Collections is based at the National Library of Norway, Rana Division. All centres deal with exploitation and development of network-based services.

The Rana Division takes part in several European projects, among them LAURIN and NEDLIB.

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The National Library of Norway will, as of January 1, 1999, be established as **one organisational unit**, with divisions in Oslo and Rana. The construction of the underground storage facilities in Oslo will then start, and at their completion, the collections will be moved there. The main building will then be emptied so that the reconstruction work can begin, and staff and services will be moved to nearby locations. The reconstruction work will be completed by the year 2003, finally providing the National Library with a proper and functional building for the Oslo Division and the Office of the National Librarian.

The National Library's Home page: <http://www.nb.no>

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