

# † National Library of Norway – Annual Report 1998

## 1. Special topic 1998-1999 – Management of the library (developments and improvements)

1998 one of the main focuses of the National Library of Norway has been planning the establishment of a new division of the National Library placed in Oslo. From 1. January 1999 the National Library took over the departments of the University of Oslo Library that so far had taken care of several of the functions of a national library. From 1. January 1999 the National Library consists of the Office of the National Librarian, placed in Oslo, and the two Divisions in Rana and in Oslo.

In November 1998 a new position as head of "IT and Innovation" in the National Library was established. The new position is part of the Office of the National Librarian but located to the Rana Division, and it is given responsibility for strategic planning and coordination of all activities regarding IT within the National Library.

## 2. Major innovations during the year

The major innovations has been made in the field of preservation of collections and IT. Please note point no. 9 and 10.

The Norwegian Cultural Network-project was established in 1998 in the National Library, funded by the Ministry of Culture. There is also established related Networks for Libraries, Archives, Museums and Fine Arts in the project. The project will last until 2001. The web-site of the project was officially opened in December. The Internet address is: <http://kulturnett.no>

## 3. Financing and funding

The National Library is funded by the Ministry of Culture.

## 4. Legal status

No changes was made to the Legal Deposit Act.

The National Library of Norway is engaged in the work of making the Legal Deposit Act better correspondent with the Copyright Legislation.

## 5. Role of the national library in the national library network

From 1. January 1999 the National Library of Norway was to take over the responsibility for the NORMARC-format and for the national committees of classification and cataloguing. The preparation for this was mostly done in 1998.

The planning of a project concerning a new Norwegian abridged version of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC21) is finished. The project will start in August 1999.

## 6. Legal deposit of materials

No special changes.

## 7. Buildings and plant

Due to lack of space in the Repository Library in Rana there are plans for a new building in addition to the one that was built in 1993. The old main building of the University of Oslo Library was taken over by the National Library by 1. January 1999. The building has been neglected for many years and there are now made plans for building a new storage underground and a total renovation of the old building. Hopefully funding will be secured for both the projects in Rana and in Oslo from year 2000.

## 8. Acquisitions

Moving the collections of the University of Oslo Library out of the building in Oslo also meant splitting the collections in two. The Norwegian and Nordic collections are kept by the National Library, while all foreign collections is to be moved to the new building of the University of Oslo Library. In this process the reference collection also has been split. During 1998 one therefore have been buying necessary reference literature into the Library.

The acquisition policy of the Oslo Division will continue to focus on adding to the Norwegian collections and building up a good reference collection to support the special collections.

The National Library has received a major donation of pictures from Roald Amundsens expeditions in both the Arctic and the Antarctic.

## 9. Conservation/preservation of collections

The pre-project for a preservation project in the Rana Division has been made. The project will last for several years, and will focus on a preservation plan for the collections.

The Microfilm section is refilming old newspapers due to bad quality of some of the older microfilms. In 1998 about 600.000 pages was refilmed.

The National Library is participating in the Laurin-project supported by the EU. The project is about scanning using the OCR-system and making available large collections of newspaper-clippings. The project is to last for two years and the partners in the project comes from Norway, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Italy and Spain. Norway has a special responsibility for copyright issues.

The Iranologist Georg Morgenstierne's photographic archive was conserved and made into a multi-media database at the same time. The database consists of sound, film, text and photos.

The Roald Amundsen photographic archive was conserved and digitised, and will be accessible in a database in 1999.

Manuscripts from one of the first female authors in Norway, Camilla Collett, were conserved.

## Digitisation

Several pilot projects on digitisation of collections were carried out in 1998. The most important of these focused on old newspapers, radio broadcasts on magnetic tape, historic film material and photos.

In 1998 a project on microfilming and digitisation of old Nordic newspapers was started. The project is in cooperation with the National Library of Finland and the State Library of Denmark and is co-funded by NORDINFO. In the project newspapers from the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> century have been microfilmed, and afterwards the microfilm has been digitised. After digitisation, extensive OCR-tests will be carried out, to evaluate the possibility of having also a full text version of the newspapers available for searching. The project is planned to last for three years.

The pilotproject on digitisation of radio broadcasts was carried out in cooperation with the Norwegian Broadcast Cooperation (NRK). The objective was to verify technical solutions for a shared digital radio archive, available via the data network. More than 300 hours of radio broadcasts were digitised in full linear quality (48 KHz 16 bits samling), and afterwards converted to the compressed formats MPEG 1 (192 Kbps) and Real Audio (64 Kbps and 28,8 Kbps). All formats, including the linear quality, were kept on conventional disk technology continuing more than 300 GB of sound files. The project was successful, and a large scale project is currently being planned.

## 10. IT and new technology

### Digitisation

In 1998 the possibility of generating compressed MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 versions of films directly from digital video was established. This is now implemented in the production chain at the Media Laboratory. The equipment is still not able to handle variable bitrate MPEG, which is required by the current DVD-standards.

The digital production chain for photos was put into full operation in 1998. A lot of resources were put into developing the competence of the existing staff. The number of digital cameras are planned to be expanded in 1999, and at the same time one plans to put into operation cameras which digitise and expose a conventional film for safe guarding in one operation.

### Networking

In 1998 all division of the National Library of Norway were connected to the Norwegian Research Network. This is an ATM-based high speed network interconnecting all universities, some colleges, some research institutes and the National Library. Currently the electronic services of the National Library are available via 30 Mbps connection, while the communication between the Divisions of the National Library which are more than 1000 km apart runs at 12 Mbps. All internal telephony is also routed via the data network.

Late in 1998 an initiative was made towards the Research Council of Norway to establish a Norwegian research programme on the development of digital libraries.

### Investments

Some basic investments were made in 1998 to handle the digitisation projects. Especially the digitisation of radio broadcasts required an improvement of the storage facilities. A massive RAID-based disk storage system was put into operation. Approximately 1 TB of disk was put into the mountain vault, controlled by a UNIX-server in the main buildings via fibre channel technology. A further development of the digital storage systems are planned both for 1999 and 2000.

### Staff issues

The establishment of the Oslo Division of the National Library was a major challenge for the IT-staff. A complete infrastructure had to be put in place during the last months of 1998, including telephony, data networking and basic network services. From 1.1.1999 the IT-staff in the National Library count approximately 30 persons, including the staff handling the Norwegian Cultural Network-project.

## 11. Services to readers

A new web-site for the National Library was developed in 1998, and made official January 11<sup>th</sup> in 1999 ([www.nb.no](http://www.nb.no)).

## 12. Exhibitions

The planning of the opening exhibition of the National Library, Oslo Division was carried out. The exhibition is to be a tribute to the author Alexander Kiellands 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, and will take place in Oslo from 18<sup>th</sup> of February to 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1999.

## 13. Publishing

During 1998 a project of finding a new graphic profile for the National Library it has been completed. The result is a new logo and a complete new profile for letters, prints and so on. The logo symbolises both the book and the new digital future of the Library. The profile is also used at the new web-site of the Library which is accessible on: [www.nb.no](http://www.nb.no) on the Internet.

Production of all fiche-products was discontinued in 1998. The increasing number of databases with improved search facilities on the Internet has resulted in a decreasing number of CD-ROM subscriptions.

The Nordic Union Catalogue of Serials (NOSP) and the Norwegian Index to Periodical Articles (Norart) were introduced and were made available on the Internet as subscription based services.

## 14. Cataloguing and other technical processes

A Z39.50 target has been installed, serving the National Bibliography, The Norwegian List of Serials and the Union Catalogue of monographs and serials.

The project "Electronic conversion of the National Bibliography 1921-1970" continued. By the end of 1998 the database Norbok (The National Bibliography) covered the period 1041-1945, 1956-.

From 1998 the BIBSYS database also includes recycled material from the Repository Library. All libraries can order this material through BIBSYS.

## 15. Library co-operation

The National Library of Norway is coordinating the Northern Lights Route-project as part of the Cultural Routes of Europe of the European Council. In 1998 contacts have been established with the National Library of Russia, the National Library of Sweden and The National Library of Finland. The project will run from 1999-2005.

## 16. Staffing matters

The new organisational map of the National Library from 1. January 1999 is enclosed.

In the Office of the National Librarian there are now 8 employees. In the Rana Division there are 190 employees. From 1.1.99 there are 127 employees in the Oslo Division.

## 17. Major celebrations

In 1999 the Rana Division will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## 18. Other notable information

Please note the new phone numbers, addresses and web-site:

Office of the National Librarian – National Librarian: Mr. Bendik Rugaas:

Bygdøy Allé 21, PO.BOX 2674 Solli, NO-0203 OSLO, tel: +47 23 27 63 00, fax: +47 23 27 63 95, e-mail: [nb@nb.no](mailto:nb@nb.no)

National Library of Norway, Oslo Division – Director: Mrs. Sissel Nilsen:

Drammensvn. 42, PO.BOX 2674 Solli, NO-0203 OSLO, tel: +47 23 27 60 00, fax: +47 23 27 60 10/50, e-mail: [nbo@nb.no](mailto:nbo@nb.no)

National Library of Norway, Rana Division – Director: Mrs. Bjørg Simonsen:

Finsetvn. 2, NO-8607 MO I RANA, tel: +47 75 12 11 11, fax: +47 75 12 12 22, e-mail: [nbr@nb.no](mailto:nbr@nb.no)

New web-site: [www.nb.no](http://www.nb.no)