THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NORWAY

Annual Report 1999 to CENL

1. Management of the library: performance indicators, planning, decision-making, eveluation, mission statement (Special topic 2000)

The National Library of Norway entered a new phase in its development as of January 1, 1999. The new organization of the library with two divisions, one in Mo i Rana and one in Oslo, and the office of the National Librarian in Oslo, was from this date in operation. 1999, therefore, meant a lot of work to establish the internal infrastructure ranging from telecommunications to rules, regulations and routines for a new integrated library with two locations situated more than 1000 km apart.

2. Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation (Special topic 2000)

See item 8.

3. Funding

4. Legislation

The National Library has, through its legal adviser, assisted the Council of Europe in working out the Council of Europe/EBLIDA "Guidelines for Library Legislation and policy in Europe".

5. Buildings

The old building housing the Oslo Division is in need of general repair and alterations to enlarge the areas for the public, and new storage facilities will have to be constructed. In 1999 a plan for the building of a new underground storehouse and total renovation of the building was presented to the Ministry of Culture.

The Rana Division received funding of NOK 100 mill. for a second storage building of

6700 m2 for the Repository Library (Depot II).

6. Staffing matters

7. Information technology and networks

A lot of effort was put into establishing a well functioning common ICT infrastructure for the National Library as a whole. This included hardware components as well as routines and maintenance procedures. Video conferencing studios were also established both in Oslo and in Rana, to improve the contact between the physically remote staff of the library.

During 1999 a structured switched 100 Mbps LAN was put in place both in the Oslo and in the Rana divisions. The LAN is established using Ethernet switches from Cisco systems. The new solution is modular and may be upgraded to 1 Gbps LAN on a modular basis as the need for bandwidth grows. Some places new cabling had to be installed to handle the higher bandwidth.

To meet higher demands for availability of the systems at the National Library, new and more powerful Novell servers were put into operation in 1999. The new servers have high redundancy built into the systems to enable higher availability.

Also, the most important UNIX-servers were upgraded and integrated in a cluster with common storage. All the critical components of the systems are now duplicated.

To further improve the availability of the systems, it was decided that the most critical ICT personnel shall be equipped with infrastructure in their homes to enable them to health check the systems every evening, as well as to perform maintenance operations if necessary. This procedure will be implemented early 2000.

Digital safe deposit storage

As the number of digital objects in the National Library has been steadily growing, the need for an infrastructure capable of handling the digital information over a long period of time has been equally accelerating. At the end of 1999, the first components of a digital safe deposit storage were put into place, namely a disk based storage system with high availability (approx. 2 TB of disk capacity). The storage system is connected to the UNIX cluster via Fibre Channel with full duplication of all SAN (Storage Area Network) components. In 2000 the system will be complemented with secondary storage as well as additional disks. Total capacity at the end of 2000 is planned to be approximately 20 TB. In addition, rules regarding formats, quality, identification, metadata and migration of digital data, will be established early 2000.

The library is a partner in the EU funded networking project ONE-2 working for cross domain access to catalogues and bibliographic databases in European ALM-institutions.

The number of calls to the national bibliographic databases and the union catalogues was nearly doubled from 1998 to 1999. Several databases got a new user interface on the web.

The digital conversion of the printed Norwegian National Bibliography was continued back to the year 1940.

The retrospective conversion of the catalogue on periodicals was completed which included approx. 30.000 cardex cards (the Fortuna project).

8. The digital library

The digital safe deposit storage will also function as the digital object storage for the National Library's digital library.

Digitisation projects

In a Nordic collaboration, 50.000 pages from a Norwegian newspaper were digitised. The digitised newspaper will be made available on the Internet in 2000. A few articles will be catalogued, but most of the material will only be described using very simple metadata.

The microfilm scanner was upgraded to handle grey scale digitisation, and at the same time an additional scanner was purchased. Also, the capacity for digitisation of photos was expanded through the introduction of a hybrid camera handling exposure to film base and digitisation in one operation. There are now 5 digital cameras in production.

A large strategic collaboration between the National Library and the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) on the establishment of a common digital radio archive, was put into full operation in 1999. The collaboration includes:

- digitisation of historical collections
- network based legal deposit of new broadcasts
- the establishment of a common digital archive which shall communicate with the production systems and databases at NRK and the National Library
- making the digital material available via Internet services to various user groups

The digitisation comprises approximately 50.000 hours of radio broadcasts covering the period from 1934 to 2000. The digitisation capacity is around 9.000 hours per year. The material will be digitised in full linear quality (48 KHz, 16 bit) for preservation purposes, and kept on-line in full production quality (384 kbps MPEG) as well as in browse quality (64 kbps Real Audio). All the digital versions of the radio broadcasts will be stored as files.

The digitising of the photographic archive of the polar explorer Roald Amundsen was completed and made accessible on the web.

A documentation project on the Norwegian emigration to North America in the 19th and 20th centuries was started in 1998 aiming at the development of a bilingual web-site giving access to bibliographic entries, parts of monographs, serial articles, letters, photographs, sound and film recordings. The project will be completed in 2000 which marks the 175 years anniversary of the first emigration.

In addition, the National Library participates in the following digitising programmes:

- LAURIN (Libraries and Archives collecting Newspaper Clippings Unified for their Integration into Networks – a 4th Framework Programme Project, Telematics for Libraries)
- TIDEN (a Nordic project on digitising and OCR processing of newspaper articles from the 17th and 18th centuries)
- NEDLIB – This project consists of the collection, quality testing and access to legal deposited material, both physical (e.g. CD-ROMs) and Internet documents. Long time storage and migration between different formats and medias are also of interest.
- BIBLINK – This project will result in a functional prototype for exchanging metadata (Dublin Core) between publishers and the National Library

9. Legal deposit of materials

10. Acquisitions

The historical collection of photographs from the National Theatre in Norway was refilmed, digitised and made part of the Norwegian Photo Collection (searchable via the Internet).

11. Preservation & Conservation

In connection with the future moving of the stocks into a new and modern storage a comprehensive programme of conservation and cleaning of the collections, retrospective catalogue conversion, and selective digitising of materials has been developed. The programme should be realized within 2005, and the total cost is estimated to an amount of NOK 45.000.000. A proposal for funding has been presented to The Ministry of Culture in the budget application for 2001.

12. Service to readers
Document supply increased with 15.000 requests from other libraries, with a total of 50.000 requests/year.
A Document Redistribution Service was set up for Norwegian libraries, Norwegian and Nordic communities as well as the rest of the world.

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing
A book on and by the Rana Division was published to celebrate their 10th anniversary (1989-1999).
The first editions of the Library´s monograph series included the work of Vidar Vanberg on the early history of Norwegian gramophone recordings and Hans Luihn´s bibliography of illegal newspapers produced in Norway during the World War II. The latter was additionally published on CD-ROM together with digitised pages from the newspapers, photographs and other archival materials related to the production and distribution of illegal newspapers.
A new bibliographic project was initiated, concerning the Norwegian political history in relation to the year 1814 when the Norwegian constitution was signed.
The Library participates in a joint national project aiming at the publication of a new, complete and annotated edition of the works of Henrik Ibsen.
In 1999 the Library arranged three exhibitions in connection with the following jubilees:

- The 150 years anniversary of the birth of the author Alexander Kielland
- The 90 years anniversary of the foundation of the music publishing house "Norsk musikkforlag"
- The 100 years anniversary of the Norwegian National Theatre

14. Library co-operation
The enhanced IT-solutions installed in 1999 also provide better communication between the National Library and other libraries, institutions and users worldwide. The National Library plays an important part in coordinating different IT-systems within the Norwegian library community. In 1999 the library took over the responsibility for the national committees on cataloguing and indexing. A new edition of the national MARC-format, NORMARC, was published.
The work of preparing a new, abridged Norwegian edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC 21) was started in September.
The National Library has the responsibility for the National Union Catalogues, and in 1999 the Library took some important initiatives in order to improve the communication between different library catalogue systems by introducing a common national library identification number for inter-library lending purposes and a common directory of library information including links to all library catalogues accessible through the web.

15. Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)

On January 1, the departments of the University of Oslo Library that so far had taken care of several of the functions of a national library, were officially taken over by the National Library, thus constituting the Oslo Division of the National Library.

In the fall, the Rana Division celebrated its 10th anniversary.

16. **Other notable information**

In January the Library's new web site was officially opened (www.nb.no).

17. **Organisation chart**