

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2012 (FOR THE YEAR 2011)

DENMARK
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1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

The Royal Library is Denmark's National Library and university library for the University of Copenhagen.

As National Library the institution manages the national cultural heritage of both Danish and international origin in form of published material (books, periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets, computer games) manuscripts, documents, maps, pictures, photos and musical material in analogue or digital form including the Danish part of the Internet in The Netarchive and documents the immaterial culture of everyday life. The institution provides the best possible access to the collection on the actual terms for research, studies and discovery securing at the same time that the collections are preserved and passed on to future generations. As museum and cultural institution The National Library presents knowledge and discovery based on our objectives and collections.

In the capacity as National Library the institution carries out research within the National Library's responsibilities, functions, professions and collections.

2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

The Royal Library is an autonomous institution reporting directly to the Ministry of Culture. The legislative framework for the Royal Library is set out in the National Bill of Finance. Apart from that there are specific legislative frameworks for legal deposit, for protection of collections against theft and for research.

3. Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

- 6,200,000 books and journals, 18,300,000 prints and photographs, 7,400,000 pamphlets and corporate publications, 1,100,000 other materials (33,000,000 total items)

- Staff: 591 persons, 430 FTE
- Budget (2011): 339,3 mio. Danish Kroner (45,2 mio Euro)

4. New developments in creating and building collections.

The Danish Collections contain the legal deposit books, periodicals, cd-roms and av-materials. The Royal Library receives as legal deposit all works published in Denmark, pursuant to Act no. 1439 of 22. December 2004. The legal deposit forms the nucleus of the library's national collections and contains works in physical form as well as works published on the internet.

Legal deposit of the Danish part of the internet is collected through so-called "net crawling". This takes place at regular intervals according to a specific plan. A total of 7,6 milliard objects (236.000 gigabytes) have been net harvested according to the new law. They are kept on special servers in The Royal Library and the State and University Library in Aarhus.

In 2011 The Royal Library received three quite extraordinary acquisitions, one of them being a historic exchange of a manuscript with Sweden.

The exchange took place on 31 March, when one of the greatest treasures of the Danish cultural heritage, the oldest copy of The Code of the Danes [previously The Code of Jutland] from about 1280 arrived in Denmark after almost 300 years' stay in Sweden. It is the oldest known manuscript (Codex holmiensis C 37) for the first general national law in Denmark, in contemporary sources termed *Lex Danie* or *Lex Danorum*, but in the 14th Century it was rechristened The Code of Jutland following a curtailment of its sphere of application. The law was given by King Valdemar II of Denmark (the Victorious) in Vordingborg shortly before his death in March 1241. More than 240 copies of the law have been preserved, but only 14 of them dating from before 1400. Recent research now establishes that the manuscript is the oldest or next-oldest surviving medieval manuscript of Danish provenance with Danish text. This discovery also changes the historical perspective for the origin of the law, its content and significance.

That The Jutland Law could return to Denmark is due to an agreement between The Royal Library in Denmark and The Royal Library in Sweden about a mutual exchange with a Swedish provincial law, *Södermannalag*, from 1327.

Another important acquisition is *The Courtenay Manuscript*, of English provenance from about 1350. It contains the hitherto unknown version of King Canute the Great's Chronicle from about 1040 as well as other sources for the history of Denmark, Europe and Asia. We have known since the 18th Century that this version must have existed and it now turns out that it had not been lost. It is the library's belief that the acquisition of *The Courtenay Manuscript* in historical terms is on a level with Denmark's acquisition of the *Angers Fragment* in 1878 with 8 pages of Saxo's original manuscript from about 1200 for *Gesta Danorum*.

The third major acquisition is a donation of the manuscript for the fairytale *De vises sten* (*The Philosopher's Stone*), which is supposed to have been the last larger H.C. Andersen manuscript in private ownership. The fairytale is about the faith that solves the puzzle of life and death, and was

written in autumn 1858, while H.C. Andersen was staying at the Basnæs estate near Skælskør. It was initially published the same year in the popular *Folkekalender for Danmark 1859*. The manuscript has been traded as a speculation object on the private market, but following an abortive sale at an auction in November 2010 the foundation *15. Juni Fonden* bought the manuscript directly from the then owner with a view to the manuscript being preserved and made available to the public. The Foundation therefore presented the manuscript to The Royal Library.

2011 was the year when the commercial e-books – i.e. electronic books – achieved their serious break-through in Denmark. Now more than 100 works are published weekly, and all the major Danish publishers now publish e-book editions simultaneously with the paper books. E-books are typically published online and are collected via net harvestings for the Web Archive. During the year the Web Archive entered into an agreement with Publizon, which is Denmark's largest distribution portal for e-books and which represents a large number of larger and smaller publishers, just as Web Archive has made an agreement with Museum Tusculanum Publishers. By the end of the year the harvest for 2011 amounted to just over 6,300 e-books, which are now safely stored in the Web Archive.

In 2011 The Royal Library's endeavours to collect and preserve Danish computer games were subjected to a public debate questioning the library's efforts. In spring 2011 the question was addressed by the Cultural Committee in the Danish Parliament, and in November 2011 the Ministry of Culture submitted a report dealing with the issue to the Committee.

During the year the Department intensified its efforts concerning the collection of computer games, i.a. by updating reminder and reclamation procedures and by introducing a new acquisition policy for computer games not covered by the legal deposit act.

Computer games present a particular challenge in terms of preservation, i.e. because the original data media (CD-ROMs, DVDs etc.) are not very durable. In order to counteract future problems the Legal Deposit Department has increased its efforts to transfer games data from the original media to digital preservation via a process called *ripping*. During autumn 2011 more than 300 games were transferred from their original media and thereby guaranteed much better preservation conditions in the long run. The project has thereby reached the figure of 502 ripped games.

5. New developments in managing collections.

In 2011 The royal Library has been marked by three major projects: The SIFD project (System for collection and dissemination of data) the aerial photo project *Denmark seen from the air*, a so-called aerial photo application, which will i.e. be used for displaying geographically related material, such as retro-digitised aerial photos, and DISKURS, a digital archive for dissertations and prize papers submitted to Copenhagen University.

An important strategic objective for The Royal Library is to become a digital National and University Library, and the SIFD project is engaged in building up the kind of infrastructure which will move the library in that direction. The first step in the project was a user survey among The National Library's and Copenhagen University Library's stakeholders, which resulted in a solid performance specification. On the basis of this the next phase in the project can begin. That phase

involves making a decision about the technical solution in 2012 and then developing it gradually up till and including 2014.

The past few years have witnessed an increasing wish to have digital versions of dissertations and prize papers stored and made searchable, which has resulted in the digital archive DISKURS (digital collection of Copenhagen University's dissertations and prize papers) <www.diskurs.dk>. DISKURS facilitates storing and disseminating dissertations and has during the initial phase received about 500 papers from the Faculty of Life Sciences, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Faculty of Social Sciences. The rest of the faculties are expected to follow suit in 2012.

As preparation for the SIFD project it has been an important task in 2011 to secure sound by digitising old magnetic tapes in Danish Folklore Archives. As a result of this work that material can be handled and minimum secured in the present system, as well as in mutual knowledge-sharing in connection with the specific sound materials, including how they should be managed digitally to obtain the best possible preservation and any possible future application. This is also relevant information for the future administrative system which is going to provide better support for preservation and making the materials accessible.

Together with the State and University Library and The National Archive, The Royal Library has been working on the development of a shared, national bit stack for the cultural institutions in Denmark. The objective of the bit stack is that all cultural heritage institutions should be able to establish solutions for their bit preservation which fulfil exactly their institution's requirements in terms of for example bit security, accessibility and confidentiality. The system is expected to start operating in 2012.

The Royal Library has also been in charge of a project financed by DEFF, Denmark's Electronic Research Library, called *Danish Infrastructure for Persistent Identifiers*, which will make it possible to give and receive persistent addresses for digital materials.

In 2011 a number of collections with cellulose nitrate negatives from the Aerial Photograph Collection was re-packaged in the Department of Preservation and placed in a permanent frost stack. The entire removal of the highly inflammable materials has now been completed.

The Department of Preservation has also worked hard on saving some of the most decomposed collections of cellulose nitrate negatives which could not immediately be placed in a stack. Those are i.e. parts of Sylvest Jensen's Aerial Photo Collection and royal photographer Peter Elfelt's collection. The negatives are in a very poor condition; they are sticky and brittle, and often parts of the motif are discoloured. In order to save the last photo information the negatives are being preservation-digitised, i.e. digitised in a high quality.

The conservation effort has in 2011 primarily been focused on preparations for the digitisation of Danish printed matter from the period 1601-1700, which is done in collaboration with the Anglo-American company ProQuest. Conservators have gone through the books according to the catalogue and marked the items for conservation and boxes. The entire project involves sorting through more than 12,000 units, so that any damaged books have been conserved before digitisation takes place.

6. New developments in providing access to collections.

In summer 2011 The Royal Library signed two new agreements with the Anglo-American company ProQuest, partly about phase 2 of the total quality digitisation of Danish Collections until 1700, partly about quality digitisation of the library's collection of foreign incunabula, i.e. books printed during the period 1454-1500, a total of 4,600 units. The digitised works will be accessible in ProQuest's database *Early European Books* and with free access from all Danish computers (i.e. from Danish IP numbers).

A number of projects have been completed thanks to special funding. Most important, and also the largest, is a first version of the so-called aerial-photo application, *Denmark as seen from the Air*. It will be used for displaying geographically related material such as retro-digitised aerial photos. The application also supports changing the material around as well as adding your own comments and activities – termed “crowd-sourcing”. The first part is important in connection with the aerial-photo project where it is often a question of very limited information about motif and content of the individual photo. A broader involvement of the users is therefore necessary in order to place the many thousand farms, houses and plants on the island Funen which are in the process of being digitised as the initial part of the project.

Concurrently with the larger digitisation projects the library is working in prioritized order and project-oriented on preserving and making available parts of The National Library's collections via the net. As examples of this work we should mention: The multiannual project with digitisation of parts of Chief Rabbi and professor David Simonsen's collections, acquired by the library in 1932, continued in 2011, with Simonsen's large collection of letters now being digitised.

The digitisation of The Royal Library's Dunhuang scrolls, done in collaboration with The International Dunhuang Project, British Library, was completed in 2011. The digital facsimiles can be seen at the project's website: idp.bl.uk/database/oo_cat.a4d?shortref=Petersen_1998 Materials from the following Danish authors and archives have been digitised: H.C. Andersen: *The Philosopher's Stone*, manuscripts by Karen Blixen, the manuscript for *The Chronic Innocence* by Klaus Rifbjerg as well as four of his collections of poems, poems by Klaus Høeck translated into English, diaries by the painter Martinus Rørbye and a manuscript by Martin Luther. Moreover, eight Greek manuscripts from the collections GKS, Thott, E don.var and Fabricius have been digitised; these are collections of sermons by church fathers Basilius Magnus and Johannes Chrysostomus.

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

The Ministry of Culture has decided that Denmark should be more “visible” in *Europeana*, and The Royal Library has therefore been appointed as Danish “national aggregator”, which is the central authority for adjusting and passing on data from Denmark. Denmark plans to have links to about 475,000 objects by mid-2012.

The Royal Library also contributes to *Europeana Collections 1914-1918*. The library digitises 500 pamphlets, 1,000 books and 5,000 pictures that all deal with Denmark during the First World War. The Department of Maps, Prints and Photographs has in 2011 selected the 5,000 pictures for scanning, and metadata have been assigned to a major part of these. Denmark was neutral during the war, but nevertheless affected by it. The collection contains pictures of the Danish defence forces and the fortifications in Copenhagen, of prisoners of war, of social hardship and the distribution of ration coupons etc. Moreover, there are pictures from the reunion of Denmark with North Slesvig in 1920, an important consequence of the World War for Denmark. The National Library and other partners from eight countries are taking part in the project, which is expected to incorporate no less than 400,000 digitisations. These are to be launched on *Europeana's* portal during the summer of 2014 – the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

25-27 September 2011 The Royal Library hosted the 25th Annual Meeting of *the Conference of European National Libraries* (CENL). Members of CENL are the national librarians of all Member States of the Council of Europe. The meeting took place at Christiansborg Castle, seat of the Danish Parliament. In continuation of the CENL annual meeting The Royal Library in collaboration with Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF) held an international conference, *Linked Worlds*, on 28 September 2011. As the title indicates, the conference was about a world where information and digital services are ubiquitous. The conference attracted Danish as well as internationally well-known speakers and was in no way limited to only dealing with library professional aspects.