

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country: Denmark
Name of Library The Royal Library
Name of Chief Executive : Erland Kolding Nielsen, Director General

As the national library of Denmark The Royal Library administrates the national cultural heritage in terms of published works (books, periodicals, newspapers, leaflets), manuscripts, documents, maps, pictures, photographs and music in conventional and digital form. The Royal Library must at any time provide the best possible access to its collections for the purpose of research, study and knowledge, while at the same time making sure that the collections are preserved, secured and kept intact for posterity.

As university library for The University of Copenhagen and national main subject library, The Royal Library ensures that the most relevant and comprehensive collections of scholarly literature are currently available for research and further education at the University of Copenhagen and for the country as a whole within the humanities, theology, social sciences and law.

As a research institution, The Royal Library carries out relevant research in relation to the library's tasks, functions, subjects and collections.

As a cultural institution and museum, The Royal Library has, due to its function as national library, a special obligation to mediate knowledge and experiences within that part of the country's cultural heritage for which the library is responsible.

Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

Digitisation of The Royal Library's collections is done for the purpose of providing easier access to the national cultural heritage by making available via the net authentic digital editions of important national works to research, education and the general public - both in Denmark and abroad.

The Music and Theatre Department has over the past few years intensified the digital mediation of sheet music for two main reasons. First of all, the collection's most valuable and most fragile documents are made available online for preservation purposes; the rule in this case will normally be that only scholars who need to study watermarks, type of ink, writing utensils or anything else where the original is essential, may have access to these originals.

The Manuscript Department has published The electronic newsletter regularly throughout 2004. The newsletter offers detailed descriptions of more or less everything that happens in the department, including recent acquisitions and current digitisation projects.

At his death in 1766 the Danish king Frederik V left an atlas consisting of 55 volumes, filled with copper-engraved and hand-coloured maps, prospectus and topographical pictures from every part of the then known world. It is an absolutely unique atlas that up till now has only been available to scholars and other specifically interested parties. Now all 55 volumes (3,535 pages) have been digitised and put on the net as a digital facsimile by The Department of Maps, Prints and Photographs.

Buildings

In 2004 it was decided that the Danish National Archives were to move to a newly built stack situated in the former goods station at Kalvebod Brygge. At the same time it was decided that The Royal Library would be able to borrow space there as a temporary measure. The premises are designed as a climatically controlled, automatic storeroom with large, deep compact shelves of up to ten metres tall, and it is imperative that the material is packaged in boxes. A number of meetings with the Danish National Archives have concentrated on making sure the building is adapted to The Royal Library's needs.

Information technology and networks – the digital library

The Royal Library as *digital library* seeks through continuous exploitation of information technology to facilitate the user's access to information, to further the exploitation of the collections and streamline the administration of the collections and mediation in general.

More than 70 % of the total document delivery now takes place in the form of download of electronic publications. In 2004 the library developed improved and increased IT facilities for the use of the public, when the patrons are actually on the various premises of The Royal Library as well as when they use the library via the Internet from another address. In 2004 the library also worked on creating improved access roads to digital services.

Legal deposit of materials

In December 2004 The Danish Parliament (Folketinget) approved an extended act on legal deposit, *Act on Legal Deposit of Published Material*, which replaces the former act from 1997. The main aims of the new act is to harmonise legislation on legal deposit with the technological development as far as electronic cultural heritage is concerned, as well as bringing together legislation on legal deposit in one single act. The Legal Deposit Act will now also comprise film, radio and television programmes and to a greater extent Danish Internet material. The Act comes into force on July 1. 2005 and from then on The Royal Library in cooperation with the State and University Library must download the Danish part of the Internet and secure it for posterity.

The harvesting is done via a so-called harvesting programme. This programme receives the list of Internet addresses considered to be Danish. For each address on the list the programme harvests the first page and stores it. Next, the harvester finds out whether the page contains links to other pages. The programme then harvests all links that point to pages on one of the "Danish" Internet addresses. This process is repeated until all the pages to be located in this way have been harvested. In practice the programme simulates a user who with his Internet browser clicks on all the "Danish" links while at the same time storing the pages he sees. In this way large amounts of data are amassed that have to be preserved for posterity. The intention is for the user to get an experience that is as close to the one he would have had browsing on the Danish part of the Internet during a given period.

Acquisitions

Acquisition of books, periodicals and other types of material and binding in 2004 amounted to a total of 19.2 million DKK.

Of this amount 6.2 mil. were spent on the national library obligation. A large part of the acquisitions in connection with this obligation is not reflected in the accounts figures, as the great majority of the material is acquired via legal deposit and donations. A considerable number of digital documents (CD-ROMs etc.) and digital works are obtained via legal deposit and published on the Internet.

Preservation and Conservation

In 2004 The Royal Library received a special grant for the preservation of the library's valuable collections on the basis on the Ministry of Culture's *Report on the preservation of the cultural heritage* from 2003. For this purpose The Royal Library receives 6,0 mill. DKK in 2004-2007. The cultural heritage grant to The Royal Library is earmarked for catching up with the backlog in the conservation of threatened objects of unique national importance and for preventive preservation measures. The Royal Library has submitted *Action plan for the preservation of The Royal Library's physical collections 2004-2007*.

In May 2004 The Royal Library presented a 'Preserve the past' programme where companies, foundations, institutions and private individuals are invited to engage themselves actively in the preservation of the common cultural heritage. The library's specialists selected 50 unique works from all parts of the major collections: manuscripts and books, maps and pictures, music scores and globes. The works were then priced, based on time factor and the materials that would be needed for the restoration. The *Preserve the Past* programme has been favourably received by the public, and the library has already received many donations.

Services to readers

The use of the library's collections in terms of loans is rapidly increasing. The total loans figure has tripled over a five-year period and this is primarily due to electronic loans. In 2000 electronic loans constituted more than 1/5 of the total loans. In 2004 this figure has increased to 73 %.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The most important exhibition in 2004 was *Treasures in The Royal Library* which has been on view all through the year. Here the visitors were given an opportunity of seeing a selection of the library's rare and valuable books.

Among the National Museum of Photograph's exhibitions we should mention *Bill Brandt – A Retrospective*. Bill Brandt is one of the foremost documentary photographers of the 20. century, and it was therefore a great pleasure that we succeeded in getting this exhibition to Denmark which showed original photographs from the 1930s and up to his death in 1983. The exhibition was arranged in collaboration with The Bill Brandt Archive, London.

In May 2004 the exhibition *Wahlverwandschaften. Zwei Jahrhunderte musikalischer Wechselwirkungen zwischen Dänemark und Deutschland* opened in Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek's exhibition hall in the former Göttingen Paulinerkirche. In connection with the exhibition a book in German was produced which in prose

described the 14 themes of the exhibition. The exhibition put focus on the relation between Danish and German musical culture during the period from about 1760 – when what might be termed “the common musical culture” was established – to about 1914 when the First World War broke out. With a few exceptions – especially in the years after 1864 – German influence and German inspiration in Denmark has been of immense importance.

Other notable information

The opening of the library's extensive - and up till then unsolved - case of theft in the 1970s appeared in September 2003 when the British auctioneers Christie's approached the library on the matter of a book which had been handed in to them for sale. In 2004 the solving of the crime resulted in sentences for handling of stolen goods in the city court of Copenhagen and in Østre Landsret (country court). In order to examine in detail what exactly had happened and what the library had done since then to retrieve the books, a report should be prepared when the court cases were completed.

According to the report, the then management suspected from about 1973 that books were being stolen and in early 1975 this suspicion was confirmed. Recent information emerging in 2003 and 2004 through the library's and police investigations and the library's analysis of the ransacked and sold goods, it can now be said for certain that the person committed theft as early as in 1971.

The then management approached the police about the theft in March 1975, and following that the police and the library have been in constant touch. A number of written and oral charges of theft were submitted, and in the following year the police questioned about 50 people, but to no avail. The police instituted a search for stolen books through the channels available at the time, i.e. Interpol and antiquarian bookshops in Denmark and abroad. The library also distributed lists of missing books to Danish and foreign antiquarian booksellers and to a number of European academic libraries.

At the same time the authorities involved were wondering why books from The Royal Library did not turn up for sale in antiquarian bookshops in or outside Denmark. The authorities involved assumed that the thefts were committed with a view to immediate sale of the stolen goods on the international market. Today we know that the thief apparently did not steal for the purpose of an immediate sale. He hid away the stolen goods for many years and only started selling them in 1998, carefully choosing channels and methods which would not arouse suspicion that the books were owned by a Dane and therefore might originate from a Danish library.

The thefts in the 1970s lead to a number of much-needed improvements in terms of the library's security and fire regulation measures.

Library cooperation

Since 1903 The Royal Library has participated in an international cooperation and partnership in a large consortium *The International Internet Preservation Consortium, IIPC*. The consortium consists of national libraries from all the Nordic countries, France, Italy, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, USA and Internet Archive (IA). The latter is a private, American, non-profit organisation whose aim is to establish a global Internet library. With this in mind, IA has been archiving World Wide Web since 1996 and their website is among the 150 most frequently visited in the world.

Major celebrations

In 2004 The Royal Library together with the State and University Library had the great honour to present crown prince Frederik and crown princess Mary with a gift on the occasion of their wedding on May 14. 2004. The gift was a 'web time machine' which will allow the royal couple to “travel back in time” whenever they want to watch as day by day their wedding gets coverage on the Internet in the weeks leading up to the great event and after. The present was the result of the fruitful collaboration between the two libraries in connection with a joint project on the preservation of Danish cultural heritage on the Internet.

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