

# DENMARK

## THE ROYAL LIBRARY

ERLAND KOLDING NIELSON — CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

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

As national library the institution administers the national cultural heritage of both Danish and foreign origin in terms of published works (books, periodicals, newspapers, leaflets), manuscripts, documents, maps, pictures, photographs and music in conventional or digital form. As museum and cultural institution the national library mediates knowledge and experiences derived from its tasks and collections. In its capacity of national library the institution carries out research within the national library's tasks, functions, subjects and collections.

In 2006 the library has been working on a strategic plan for the years 2007-2010 with a formulation of the institution's mission, vision and strategy. The vision is to be realised within a number of strategic activity areas with particular focus on the following two themes:

- increased user orientation
- further development of the hybrid library.

Increased user orientation means that in every field of activity, the library takes into consideration the user aspect when prioritising and planning its services. It must be easy for the user to approach the library and get access to the library's resources. As national library it is also essential to provide relevant and well-organised general cultural mediation.

### THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The objective of The Royal Library's digitisation of its collections is to provide easier access to the national cultural heritage by making available via the net authentic digital editions of important national works to research, education and anyone else interested - both in Denmark and abroad.

All Danish books are now searchable in the online-catalogue REX at the National Library. The catalogue is the most complete in terms of covering Danish book production and books about Denmark. Retro-conversion started back in 1993, when the library began converting the more recent printed card catalogues, keying them into REX. Following that, older parts of the catalogue were converted. The last and most laborious phase of the project, which is now completed, started in 2001. All cards in the alphabetical catalogue have been examined and held up against the machine-generated records from printed and typed originals.

With a simultaneous focus on building up, mediation and preservation of both conventional and digital collections The Royal Library is a hybrid library. As part of a forward-orientated goal it is absolutely essential that the digital content of the hybrid library is augmented.

In 2006 The Royal Library established a consortium together with a number of other libraries with a view to make a joint acquisition and operation of the integrated search system PRIMO, just as the consortium has signed a development agreement with EX Libris on participating in the development of PRIMO. The hope is that PRIMO can be made available to the users in a beta-version in autumn 2007.

## LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

Texts, pictures and sound published on the net are also a part of Danish cultural heritage and are now being compiled in accordance with the Act on Legal Deposit from 1 July 2005. By the end of 2006 the compiled data took up 24 TB.

The strategy for the compilation is three-tiered: regular cross harvestings of the entire dk.-domain, more frequent harvestings of selected dynamic web sites (typically newspapers, radio and TV) and intensive harvestings of events. The aim is to establish as complete a national net archive as possible. The Royal Library is responsible for the cross harvestings and events harvestings, but the compilation is done in close partnership with The State and University Library. In this connection an event is defined as a subject that for one thing creates a lot of publicity in the traditional media, collected via selective harvesting, and for another generates new, temporary web sites that are not included in the cross harvestings, and which therefore have to be collected and preserved.

## PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Preservation initiatives are divided into three major action lines, namely:

- Preventive preservation.
- Conservation, which includes stabilisation or recreation of form.
- Substitution, which includes production of a replacement copy of objects in danger of being lost due to disintegration.

The preventive procedures have in 2006 been carried out in collections that were prioritised and selected in cooperation with the collection departments. Focus has been on historically important collections where the condition requires action taken. Together with the placement in new acid-free covers and archival boxes, a report on conditions in selected collections has been prepared with a view to future treatment and use.

The Department of Digital Preservation is responsible for preserving digital objects at The Royal Library. The area of responsibility covers long-term preservation of digital objects, including both storage of digital works conducted in The Royal Library and technical responsibility for collection and storage of static web publications collected according to the Act on Legal Deposit. Together with 14 other partners from European national libraries, archives, leading research institutions and technology companies, The Royal Library participates in a major EU research project, PLANETS, with focus on logic preservation generally.

## SERVICES TO READERS

It is an overall objective for The Royal Library to further the development of the digital library through the exploitation of the possibilities available via information technology. It must facilitate the reader's access to information, encourage the use of the collections and streamline collection management and mediation. The use of the electronic collections makes it possible for the users to gain access to relevant information all round the clock. Thus the library's loans figure has doubled by four over a period of six years.

The Black Diamond is the main address of the National Library, and the library's large collections of older material and valuable treasures will still be used in reading rooms and put on public display in a variety of exhibitions.

## EXHIBITIONS

*From dust to gold - handbooks and broadsheets from The Royal Library* - was the first exhibition in the Royal Library's new exhibition hall - the Montana Hall which opened to the public in November 2006. The hall is the result of a collaboration between the internationally well-known Danish furniture company Montana A/S and The Royal Library. The subject of the first exhibition was old Danish handbooks, broadsheets, novels etc.

The exhibition *Threats & Stolen Goods* turned the focus on the many threats against the written cultural heritage, which the *Memory of the World* program aims to protect and preserve.

The National Museum of Photography celebrated the tenth anniversary of its establishment with the summer exhibition *Short Stories* from its own collection. The exhibition *The Open Book* displayed 200 of the best or most important international photo books, chosen by an international jury. The exhibition *Under the Same Sky* took part in the cultural festival *Images of the Middle East* and introduced five contemporary artists from Tangier to Teheran with photographs and videos.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Address: PO Box 2149, 1016 Copenhagen K, Denmark  
Telephone: + 45 33 47 47 47  
Fax: + 45 33 32 98 46  
Web address: <http://www.kb.dk>  
Email contact: [kb@kb.dk](mailto:kb@kb.dk)