

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL), QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, 13 AUGUST 2008**

TEMPLATE FOR COUNTRY REPORT

(Country reports will be made available on the CDNL website <http://www.cdnl.info>)

Please provide reports in English

Name of Country: Denmark

Name of Library: The Royal Library

Name of Chief Executive: Director General Erland Kolding Nielsen

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

Please provide an overview of national developments since your last report including highlights and issues of relevance to CDNL members. Please do not include images in the reports. You may include URL links to images on your website. Please keep reports to 500 words or less.

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Please send your country report to the CDNL Secretariat at the address below by Monday 30 June 2008. Reports may be submitted in the body of an email or as an attachment to an email.

e-mail address for submission of reports: secretariat@cdnl.info

Management of the library; performance indicators, planning, decision-making, evaluation, mission statement

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. The institution provides optimal access to the collections on present day conditions for the purpose of research, studies and experiences, while at the same time making sure that the collections are preserved, secured and handed over to posterity. 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.

As university library the institution is main library for the University of Copenhagen and delivers professional and scholarly library service at the very highest level in support of education and research. Moreover the library makes information resources available to the public including the business community and the public sector.

In 2005 a very important decision was made to merge the Danish National Library of Science and Medicine with The Royal Library.

The idea behind the merging of the two libraries was to provide a more complete and comprehensive service to the University of Copenhagen and to make sure that the different services develop concurrently with the increased needs and demands from the university, including the demands to a future research library and also to create a new accommodating organisation that will be able more forcefully to produce the basis for qualitative improvements and thereby greater opportunities for both the university library, the national library and joint areas.

Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

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.

The Department of Digital Development and Production is responsible for the digital part of the hybrid library. The tasks include processing, handling, storing and mediation of digital documents and pictures. It is the special responsibility of the department to ensure that mediation which happens via www.kb.dk to the greatest possible extent considers the users' diverse needs and meets the, at any given time, current expectations from web mediation.

The Act on Legal Deposit from 2004 means that The Royal Library and the State and University Library in Aarhus collect and archive the Danish part of the internet via the common virtual organisation *Netarkivet* (*Net Archive*), netarkivet.dk. After two and a half years more than 61 Tbyte materials has been harvested at .dk or a foreign domain: 51 Tbyte have been collected through the so-called cross-section harvestings, 5.8 Tbyte come from frequent harvestings from a smaller number of sites and 5.6 Tbyte are harvested in connection with single events, the latest one being the General Election 2007.

From the very beginning there has been considerable international interest in the Danish solution which at the moment is the only one to handle and carry out all three harvesting strategies. It was therefore decided in 2007 to release the developed software *NetarchiveSuite* for the Net Archive, in open source.

The aim is, among other things, that as many institutions as possible apply and contribute to the development of the Danish software, thereby supporting its continued existence. The department was gratified to learn that national libraries and web archives from ten different countries chose to participate in the Net Archive's international workshop in September 2007. The workshop featured technical contributions on installation and configuration of *NetarchiveSuite* as well as more user-oriented contributions on the handling of the harvesting process itself.

The release of the software should be seen as part of the cooperation: *International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC)*, www.netpreserve.org, where the Net Archive is placed centrally in Steering Committee as well as Technical Committee. IIPC has during 2007 grown from the original 11 to 36 member institutions which are all very active within the field of web archiving. One of the primary targets in IIPC is development of a collection of easily accessible open source tools of high quality to handle the great number of subtasks which form part of the work with web archiving. Where *NetarchiveSuite* e.g. controls the harvesting, the corresponding open source uses tools, including *Heritrix*, for the actual harvesting.

In order to establish the necessary network and to acquire the necessary knowledge to work out and carry through preservation plans for the digital area, The Royal Library is a partner in the EU research project *PLANETS*. The project runs from 2006-2010 with a budget of DKK 116 million. The project's other 15 partners are European national libraries, archives, leading research institutions and technology businesses – all with a total commitment to the preservation of digital material. The project's main purpose is to establish a service-based, technical and organisational infrastructure, which supports future access to and interpretation of digital files based on standards for description and storage of objects and programs for the reading of these. The Royal Library's activities are concentrated in that part of the project that deals with *Preservation Action Tools*, cf. <http://www.planets-project.eu/>

During the first 18 of the project's total span of 48 months The Royal Library has focused on understanding and examining the basic concepts of long-term preservation, particularly within the area of migration tools. This has happened through theoretical reflections on existing tools and experiments. The work has resulted in four major deliveries in the work package *Tools for Objects* with The Royal Library in charge of management. In the remaining period focus will be on concrete migration tools, as well as tools for characterization and validation of the content in digital archives.

Information technology and networks – the digital library

In February 2007 The Royal Library presented its new web site.

After about eight years with the previous web the need for new organisation, new design and a new basic production system had become obvious. Over the years the library's web site had grown quite large; with many underlying pages, access to many different digitised works, access to the library's online catalogue REX and electronic journals, previously known as ELEKTRA, and finally with the individual departments' mediation of the pearls of wisdom from their work efforts.

At the same time The Royal Library had merged with The Danish National Library of Science and Medicine, and there was therefore a further need for creating a uniform and collective solution on the web for all the library's patrons, old as well as new.

The wish was for a web site which took into account the users' needs, instead of being constructed to suit the library's organisation.

Legal deposit of materials

How much space does an election take up? 2.2 Terabytes or 2200 Gigabytes – that is how much space the web pages took up which Netarkivet.dk collected in connection with the general election in 2007.

The air was thick with rumours during the summer, and on 24. October a general election for the parliament was called. The staff at Netarkivet had already been busy collecting URLs at web sites which were expected to contain election campaign material, first and foremost the political parties' web sites and debate pages. The URLs were entered into the system; the net harvesting – a so-called event harvesting – could begin already three hours after the prime minister had called the election. The department's job over the following weeks was to find the nominated candidates' web sites. A total of 1178 domains were chosen from which Netarkivet.dk harvested web pages. Something new in this election campaign as opposed to the general election in 2001 and the municipal and regional election in 2005 was the large number of blogs and communities which became part of the campaign. More or less all were successfully harvested.

An event harvesting is one of several methods of collecting as much as possible of the Danish part of the internet before it is removed. The other two methods are cross-section harvesting (of all Danish web sites) and selective harvestings of selected web sites (ca. 80). The archive now contains a total of 61594 GB (as per 31. December 2007).

The volume of printed material has increased by 128 running metres, so that a total of 1715 metres have been submitted. The volume of leaflets has fallen by 22000 units. Altogether 33116 monographs, incl. 3000 municipal publications, were dealt with. The municipal reform and the municipalities' increasing change-over to online publishing play a part in this.

Preservation and Conservation

Preservation initiatives are based on The Royal Library's ordinary National Budget grant and on the national heritage grant and can be divided into three major action lines, namely:

- Preventive preservation which includes control and management of the collections' environments in order to prevent disintegration of the objects without handling the object itself.
- Conservation which includes chemical as well as physical procedures in connection with a damaged object with a view to stabilisation or recreation of form.
- Substitution which includes production of a replacement copy of objects in danger of being lost due to disintegration. The information is transferred to microfilm or digital form in order to secure long-time preservation.

In 2007 The Royal Library received the final part of a special four-year grant of DKK 6.3 million from the Ministry of Culture towards the preservation of the cultural heritage. The increased grant has meant a considerable speeding-up of the preservation process and a strengthening of core areas.

The special grant was awarded on the basis of The Ministry of Culture's *Report on the preservation of the cultural heritage*, and the importance of suitable stacks was underlined together with the need for a focused preservation initiative in prioritised collections. Objects of unique national importance were therefore selected by The Royal Library, making a total of 16.8 million units placed in the national collections.

The planned conservation tasks have been carried out in collections selected in cooperation with the collection departments. Focus has been directed at historically important collections and where the conditions demand a special effort if the objects are to be preserved for posterity. A number of maps, manuscripts and printed books have been preserved.

The Department of Preservation has during the year contributed to the staging of The Royal Library's exhibitions in The Black Diamond. The complexity in connection with arranging an exhibition has resulted in the Department of Culture together with the Department of Preservation having prepared an exhibition manual. The manual describes all decision-making processes and work procedures during the preparation of an exhibition.

In connection with – and prior to – the individual exhibitions a number of the library's own works have been preserved and mounted.

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 quadrupled 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.

Usage of the National Library's collections is for the greater part made electronically. The electronic loans figure is increasing and derives to a great extent from collections produced by the library itself, such as The National Picture Base, The Portrait Base and Archive of Danish Literature. Apart from these electronic collections the library has digitised a large number of music scores, manuscripts, books etc. which are extremely popular.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The Black Diamond is a cultural institution offering a large number of attractions to the general public, such as exhibitions, concerts, lectures and debates.

The exhibition *Across the border. Connections between Danish and German musical life 1760-1914* demonstrated through 13 different themes how Danish musical life has been under the influence of artistic currents from south of the border. Danish composers tended to choose Germany for their educational travels. And Danish kings called in German masters to lend lustre to court music. The exhibition showed how these exchanges have brought their influence to bear from about 1760 to 1914 – both on the music itself and on a number of institutions and events in the musical culture of the two countries. The exhibition was originally created in collaboration with Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek in Göttingen where *Wahlverwandschaften* was shown in 2004. The restaging featured a completely new framework, with a few new works and with a somewhat different story about the national Danish musical history.

With the exhibition *Understanding Nature – from fables to systems* the library wanted to describe the curiosity of man. Without this curiosity mankind would not have achieved the scientific results that it has. Seen through historical spectacles biological research has come a long way, but science is inexhaustible. New knowledge always gives rise to new questions. In 2007, when the world celebrated the tercentenary of the famous Swedish botanist Carl von Linné's birth, The Royal

Library brought into focus some of the scientific breakthroughs by staging this exhibition.

The exhibition showed a selection of the works that have advanced biological research further, and also works that have led it astray. A labyrinthine development with many intricate sequences and blind alleys!

The Brazilian Sebastião Salgado's exceptional exhibition *The Workers* is a tribute to manual work in the industrial age. It is a portrait of working man from the Indian peasant family, via miners in the goldmines of Brazil, to steel workers in the French shipping industry. And all the time, Salgado focuses on the role of the individual. For decades Salgado has had considerable influence on Danish photography. He has been a definite role model for many prize-winning press and news photographers. His working method, his respect for the individual and eye for each person's beauty and dignity are all elements to be admired and aspired to.

A large part of The Royal Library's concerts were performed by the library's own ensemble: The DiamantEnsemble. In September 2007 the ten musicians welcomed their audiences to season number four. After three seasons the ensemble's musicians have established an excellent teamwork. Thanks to financial support from a number of Danish foundations, The Royal Library was able in April to send musicians and the Russian piano talent, Alexander Kobrin, on tours to the international music festival Heidelberger Frühling and to the chamber music hall, Wigmore Hall, in London. The tour ended in The Queen's Hall in The Black Diamond. The critic on Musical Opinion wrote about the concert in Wigmore Hall, "it worked out extremely well in performance ... the sheer musicality of the DiamantEnsemble was a constant joy to listen to!"