

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009 (FOR THE YEAR 2008)**

DENMARK

THE ROYAL LIBRARY

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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 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.

In 2008 the Danish Folklore Archives merged with the Royal Library. The Archives preserves ordinary people's perception of life, memories, traditions, singing, music and everyday stories for posterity. Everyday is here immortalised to the benefit of future generations. The Danish Folklore Archives does research in the culture of all communities, and the archive holds several hundred years' of documentation of the people and the society forming the background of Denmark as it is today.

### **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.

Archiving of the Danish part of the internet forms part of a special task to be solved in collaboration with the State and University Library. The institution cooperates primarily with other institutions under the Ministry of Culture and with colleagues from sister institutions abroad.

The Act on Legal Deposit is to be revised at the latest during the parliamentary session 2010-11, and the two libraries behind the >NetArchive.dk< will in 2009 be looking at necessary or essential changes, partly as a result of technological developments, partly as a result of the experiences gained since net harvesting started in 2005.

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

- 6,200,000 books and journals, 16,000,000 prints and photographs, 7,000,000 pamphlets and corporate publications, 1,000,000 other materials (30,200,000 total items)
- Staff: 622 persons, 423 FTE
- Budget (2008): 325 mio. Danish Kroner (43,3 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. 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 harvesting". This takes place at regular intervals according to a specific plan. A total of 84,53 gigabytes have been net harvested since 2005. They are kept on special servers in the Royal Library and the State and University Library in Aarhus.

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 quarterly cross-section harvesting (of all Danish web sites) and selective harvestings of selected web sites (ca. 80).

A sizeable amount of printed matter is still being published which over the year must be sent to the library as part of the legal deposit scheme. The department has wished for a long time to show some of the legal deposit partners how the material is being dealt with. This wish was realised in November when Department of Legal Deposit received visits from Copenhagen suppliers, mainly printers. Invitations were sent with the heading: "Come and see what happens to the printed material you deposit". Cooperation partners were told about the importance of legal deposit for the common cultural heritage.

### **5. New developments in managing collections.**

High quality stacks are a fundamental prerequisite for the Royal Library's collections being preserved for posterity, and in spring 2008 new stacks were completed at Njalsgade 112. Climate controlled stacks were established on five floors, each divided into two sections with motorised, movable shelves (compact shelves). The space is thereby used optimally, and in the 3,050 m<sup>2</sup> new stacks it is possible to place a total of 28,000 shelf metres. The stacks are

designed so as to store the materials under the best possible conditions and - by the way – also in accordance with the Royal Library's preservation strategy, which is that the materials should be preserved for more than 500 years. Several factors must be considered like for example temperature, atmospheric humidity, atmospheric quality, fire and anti-theft protection.

The Royal Library's new stacks on Amager introduce a new standard for stacks for the preservation of the library's cultural heritage material, which is based on international experiences and the library's work with various aspects of preservation work, and it is with great pleasure that the Royal Library has begun using these stacks.

The Royal Library's nitrate negative collections are estimated to consist of about 880,000 negatives, and since 2003 they have been stored in a refrigerating container to minimize the fire risk and prolong the lifetime of the negatives. The refrigerating container is set to run on 2°C and 25% relative atmospheric humidity. The collections have been in the process of repackaging for a long time so that the negatives were ready to be moved into a permanent nitrate archive, run by the Danish Film Institute, which will also house the National Museum's nitrate negatives. In June 2008, when about half the negatives were being re-packaged, this part was moved to the permanent nitrate archive, where the climate is -5° and 30% RH, and the lifetime has thus been further improved in relation to previous preservation.

#### **6. New developments in providing access to collections.**

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. This must happen by increasing the digital share of the library's collections, the digital accessibility of collections and information and the digital administration of the library. It must improve user access to relevant information and encourage self-service. In this way the library's services and activities will become more effective, use of manpower will be reduced as will wear and tear.

The number of loans has in 2008 continued to rise with a hybrid factor reaching 89, i.e. 89% of all loans are electronic loans. The growth is mainly due to electronic loans, while conventional loans keep falling, the difference, however being that the fall in physical loans has happened particularly within physical and medical sciences. The downward slope in physical loans reflects the general development within the area, where especially printed periodicals are replaced by electronic usage. In connection with the increase in electronic loans, it should be mentioned that also the number of searches in databases went up in 2008 as compared to the year before.

One of the most vital of the Royal Library's goals is to the greatest possible extent to exploit the IT-technology in order to support the development of the digital library. The direct access to information via a single click facilitates user access to information, encourages full use of the collections and streamlines collection management and mediation. Exploitation of the electronic collections makes it possible for users to gain access to relevant information round the clock. Information technology must also be exploited to make the physical collections available in the most rational and easy way for the users.

In September 2008 the Royal Library officially opened a new search facility for data in the library base REX based on the search system PRIMO. The aim is to give the users better and more “modern” search facilities. First of all by giving access to search in all the library’s information resources in one go via the same interface (also called “integrated search”). Secondly, by offering the users an easier way of navigating in the Royal Library’s many different collections. In many ways the libraries find themselves in a time of upheaval where things are moving very fast. There is an increased institutionalisation of the collaboration between the different libraries, and library systems – as well as any other offers to the users – develop with a hitherto unknown speed. This also means an increasing recognition of the fact that IT-systems and user services in a continuous process must be developed constantly and reconsidered in order to fulfil the users’ wishes in the best possible way. And there is no doubt whatsoever that if libraries want to be abreast of developments, new initiatives have to be produced at a rapid pace!

In the spring the library launched a new mediation interface for the publishing of photos and pamphlets. Kick off was the pilot-project called *Pictures Denmark*, which in cooperation with local archives gives access to photos from Danish towns. Then followed catalogues since 1911 from *Daell’s Department Store*, which have caused particular interest, and apart from ordinary people’s interest in the catalogues, they have always been very much used as research material for films, theatre and television. Apart from the Daell’s catalogues, also *programmes from political parties* (1871 - ) and the so-called *chest pictures* were published. For nearly 300 years chest pictures in Denmark served as moral inspiration to common people with hand-coloured woodcuts. They were glued to the lid inside of one’s chest – hence the name.

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

In 2008 The National Library conducted a user satisfaction study. The purpose of this study was both to get an impression of the users’ satisfaction with the reading rooms and to find out how the users are divided into a number of main groups of researchers/students/others, and also to learn something about usage patterns in terms of the individual reading rooms and the library’s online offers.

The main conclusion of the study was an overall satisfaction of 83%, i.e. that 83% of the users have given the assessment 4 or 5 (“good”/“very good”) as an average assessment. Highest satisfaction is given to staff service and guidance and to the library’s general service. Lowest satisfaction goes to opening hours, and naturally enough particularly to the reading rooms with the shortest opening hours. It is quite clear that the reading rooms where the concordance between the reading rooms’ target groups and the group of actual users is biggest are also the one awarded highest marks of satisfaction.

A large part of the Royal Library’s concerts were performed by the library’s own ensemble: The Diamond Ensemble. In September 2008 the ten musicians welcomed their audiences to season number five. After four seasons the ensemble’s musicians have established an

excellent teamwork. The ensemble is funded by a private company and a number of Danish foundations. Apart from the many concerts, representing more or less all musical genres which are held in the library's well-functioning concert hall, a number of remarkable exhibitions should be mentioned:

*Danish Prime Ministers – a Satirical Portrait* showed political Danish history through satirical drawings and caricatures through 150 years. For many decades the cartoonists have contributed with their witty and pertinent comments to the political debate. The public were invited into the drawing room, where easy chairs, lamps, coffee tables and a television set provided the framework for the exhibition. Here one could sit back and relax and watch on TV the political events that had occasioned the drawings. With a twinkle in his eye Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen opened the exhibition. The prime minister was portrayed by cartoonist Roald Als as "the caveman" on the cover of the comprehensive exhibition catalogue.

The exhibition *JACOB A. RIIS* presented one of the great Danes of photographic history, Jacob A. Riis in The National Museum of Photography's autumn exhibition. Jacob A. Riis emigrated in 1870 to America and became the father of social documentary photography. As a journalist and lecturer he described the slums of New York. He made his political fingerprint on the reformation of the American society – also by dint of his close friendship with the later president Theodore Roosevelt. The exhibition showed a number of Jacob A. Riis' original photographs, restored for the occasion in collaboration between the Royal Library and New York City Museum who owns the photographs.

*Everything You Can Think Of Is true – the dish ran away with the spoon* was a major venture in the autumn and showed a large sketchbook exhibition, staged by all-round artist Robert Wilson. The exhibition displayed a broad selection of sketches from primarily Danish artists from the 16th to the 20th century, from the well-known to the unknown. Robert Wilson based his staging in the sketchbooks' world of possibilities and undemanding play, and he created a cockeyed and beautiful installation.

The Royal Library's new student network *Students Only!* was launched on 1. September 2008 and attracted immediate and overwhelming interest. In just six weeks 2,000 had registered for the network and in spring 2009 the figure has exceeded 3,500. The massive backing punches a hole in all prejudices about young people's lack of interest in (highbrow) culture! Students at universities in the Copenhagen area flock to the cultural events in the Diamond: concerts, lectures, exhibitions tours and to exclusive *Students Only!* special arrangements with an opportunity for dialogue with researchers, lecturers and debaters, as well as last-minute offers with very low prices and special offers from the Diamond bookshop and the library's café.

The club is organised as a network with its own homepage [www.studentsonly.dk](http://www.studentsonly.dk) and there is every indication that the modern graphics has scored a bull's eye. The students log in and register – and new names are added every day.

In 2008 the Royal Library had its research plan approved to apply for the years 2008-2011. It is the library's third research plan and replaces the plan for 2003-2007. The plans are prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Culture's guidelines and are subsequently approved by the ministry's research committee after a hearing in the Royal Library's Advisory Research

Committee. The research plan for 2008-2011 differs first and foremost from its predecessor by the fact that some new subject areas have been added, partly because of the fusion between the National Library of Science and Medicine and the Royal Library in 2006, and partly because of an increased need for IT-research and research into physical preservation.

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

The biggest project launched in 2008 is *Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (DK-CLARIN)*, a project about research infrastructure within the humanities where the Royal Library is in charge of technical infrastructure as well as conducting parts of the actual digitisation. Moreover, *Archive for Danish Literature, ADL*, is to be adapted to the infrastructure. The project is funded by the National Pool for Research Infrastructure.

The Royal Library participates in a consortium with i.a. University of Copenhagen, University of Aarhus, Copenhagen Business School, Danish Language Council, Danish Language and Literature Society and The National Museum. The project hopes to be included as a Danish element in a major European CLARIN-infrastructure which is being prepared under the EU's 7. Framework programme.

The research infrastructure will contain large bodies of text in old and modern Danish, parallel texts (identical text in two languages), spoken language, dictionaries, video sequences etc. These resources will be marked out with linguistic and other information via automatic tools. This will make it possible to find and combine results in completely new ways. It means that the project will support humanistic researchers' work in ways hitherto unseen and give access to new research results within linguistic science, literature, history etc.

The Royal Library is participating in a joint European project together with 13 other libraries. The project is called *eBooks on Demand (EOD)* and its purpose is to offer the users the possibility of ordering the scanning of an older book, exempt from copyright, for electronic delivery as a searchable PDF-file. In practice the user can order an eBook by searching in the Royal Library's online catalogue. Here works from before 1900 have been given an EOD-icon. By clicking on the icon the user can order a digital copy of the book in question. The book is then digitised by the library, and can be downloaded by the user as a PDF-file. In the PDF the user can read, browse and zoom in the text on his screen, print out the whole file – or just individual pages – search words or sentences in the complete text as well as copy both text and pictures electronically to use in other contexts. Last, but not least, there are no restrictions on the use of the eBook. If the book has previously been used as an eBook, it is free of charge for subsequent users, as only the first person to order the book will have to pay for the digitisation of the physical book.

With the emergence of *Europeana* ([www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu)), Europe's digital multimedia library, the EU's determined effort to render visible digital sources to the European cultural heritage became a reality. *Europeana* is the portal that compounds digital sources and objects from libraries, sound-, film- and document archives and museums to inspire to exploration of

European cultural history and contribute to this by exploiting *Europeana*'s possibilities for inclusion of the users' own knowledge.

The vision is to create a portal demonstrating that culture and cultural perception is the lifeblood in European integration. By the use of communication technology the awareness of European cultural heritage is to increase – not only by browsing and searching in the content of the portal – but also by giving the users the opportunity to combine the content and show relations between the portal's individual elements and objects in order to form an overall impression. For example, by a portrait of an author, the digitised works by an author, a photo of an object and a sound- or photo recording of an event together telling a story. Creating period pictures and capturing also our own time with the help of the users is the aim of the portal.