

# The National Library of Norway in 2008 - an overview

## The National Library's strategic plan (2005 – 2008):

### The vision of the National Library is to be

- \*the memory of the nation
- \* a multimedia centre of knowledge – in the forefront of future demand

The strategic measures have been described through these main goals:

### The National Library shall:

- \* be one of Europe's most exciting and modern national libraries
- \* form the core of the Norwegian Digital Library
- \* offer high quality knowledge and experiences
- \* assist in the understanding of culture and technology
- \* be an organization willing and able to change

The strategic ambitions of the National Library, primarily regarding **professional development** and **digitization of the whole collection**, demand continuous development over several years.

The aim for the digital library, NBdigital, in 2008 was achieved. During 2008, 7.3 mill book pages, 640,000 newspaper pages, 59,000 photos, 20,400 pages of handwritten manuscripts and about 61,000 hours of radio programmes were digitized. The number of hits at nb.no were doubled compared to 2007.

The digitized books that are out of copyright are freely available through NBdigital at [www.nb.no](http://www.nb.no). They can be searched for both via metadata and a full text search.

Two of the largest Norwegian newspapers (Aftenposten and Adresseavisen) were downloaded daily in digital form in 2008.

An agreement on the digital legal deposit on books and periodicals was initiated in 2008 between the Norwegian Publisher Association and NB (Read the agreement at <http://nb.no/english/facts>). Similar agreements were entered with three publishing companies and NRK.

### Authors' anniversaries

The marking of the bicentenary of Henrik Wergeland's birth in 2008 (jointly with the National Archival Services of Norway and Eidsvoll 1814), have been the national responsibility of The National Library this year. There was also cooperation over web sites for this event, such as with the county of Vest-Agder over Wergeland2008.no.

Preparations for the Knut Hamsun sesquicentennial in 2009 were started, and the first version of hamsun.no was launched.

### Exhibitions

In addition to an extensive programme of 52 events and 4 smaller exhibitions, the National Library held these four main exhibitions in 2008:

1. **\*Født med ski på beina? En utstilling om nordmenn og ski (An exhibition on Norwegians and skis)**
2. **\*Hassel-Nødder. Forfatteren Henrik Wergeland (Hazel Nuts. The Author Henrik Wergeland)**

3. **\*100 år i grafikkens tjeneste. Norsk forening for grafisk kunst 1908-2008. (100 years serving the graphic arts. )**
4. **\*80 millioner bilder. Norsk kulturhistorisk fotografi 1855-2005. (80 million pictures. Norwegian Vernacular Photography 1855-2005)**

H.M.The King participated at a seminar on Tormod Torfæus' History of Norway in April. In October, The King and the Queen visited the Library together with the Irish President. They were given a short programme and exhibition on the libraries Sandvik materials.

2008 was a **Year of Cultural Diversity**, and measures were taken in order to extend legal deposit to an even greater part of what is published in other languages by ethnic minorities.

The National Library is one of the partners in the LongRec research project (<http://research.dnv.com/LongRec/>) which takes place during the period 2007-2009. This project is supported by The Research Council of Norway, and is led by Det Norske Veritas (DNV). The aim of the project is the long-term preservation and use of digital documents in a safe manner.

### **Visitors**

The high number of visitors stabilized in 2008. There has been a great increase in the use of reading room collections, of e-periodicals and greater degree of use of terminals. Improvements in self-service access to newspapers on microfilm have resulted in a better service for the users.

### **Organization and finances**

In 2008 the responsibility for Norway's film heritage was transferred to the National Library from the Norwegian Film Institute.

The National Library is financed through annual grants in the State Budget. In 2008 the institution was granted NOK 314.8 million for operations and NOK 20.6 million for investments.

The income of the National Library in 2008 was NOK 10.5 million, from the sale of services, assignments, joint projects and reimbursements.

The National Library prioritizes its financial resources in a way that will support the strategic efforts of the operation. In 2008 the National Library continued to channel resources into professional development, mediation with a special focus on exhibitions and main events, and the development of the digital library.

### **Key figures**

Legally deposited books and periodicals shall be indexed, archived and made accessible to users within six weeks of arrival:  
attainment

97% goal

Purchases for the collection:

NOK 10 063 436

Bibliographies published:

2

Digital units in the Digital Long Term Repository:

227 921

Units in the Digital Long Term Repository that have

been made accessible to the public:	257 600
Hits and downloads at nb.no (digital distribution):	17.5 millions
Loans from the collection:	175 600
Visitors to the library:	169 182
Visitors to exhibitions and events:	18 100
Exhibitions:	4
Events:	52