

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL – 2008

Name of country: Sweden

Name of library: National Library of Sweden

Name of Chief Executive: Dr. Gunnar Sahlin

Mailing address: P.O. Box 5039, SE-10241 STOCKHOLM, Sweden

Telephone: +46 8 4634000

Fax: +46 8 4634004

Web address: [www.kb.se](http://www.kb.se)

Email address: [kungl.biblioteket@kb.se](mailto:kungl.biblioteket@kb.se)

### *General overview*

The most important event of the year was the government's decision in the spring to integrate the National Archive of Recorded Sound and Moving Images into the National Library. It was followed by eight months of intense preparations until the merger finally took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009.

The need for technological development and massive investment in the handling of digital materials was one of the reasons for the merger. Another was media convergence.

Actually, this development is just one example of what is happening in Sweden in terms of closer cooperation between archives, libraries, and museums. In particular, the National Library and the National Archives have several projects in common in the areas of federated bibliographic search and digital preservation. By way of ABM-centrum, a coordinating office placed at the National Library, the national museums are also brought into the network of cooperation.

International cooperation is another dominant trend among national libraries, archives, and museums. The digitisation, digital accessibility, and long-term digital preservation of the cultural heritage are a primary concern. The National Library of Sweden is an active participant in The European Library (TEL), Europeana, and the World Digital Library alike. Our ambition is to make our digital documents as available as possible to as many users as possible.

Digitisation and digital access is an important area of activities, although lack of funding and copyright restrictions constitute formidable obstacles. The digitisation of daily newspapers is a high priority, for reasons of both accessibility and preservation.

Digitisation and the influx of born-digital materials alongside with the massive flow of printed materials are transforming the national library into a "hybrid library". This transition is not without problems. Coordination is urgently needed, as are new skills on the part of the staff.

However, the pressure on the organisation would have been even greater had the long-promised revision of the legal deposit law been produced, mandating the deposit of web publications. The negative effects of the absence of such a revision will be permanent.

As for the paper-based collections, during 2008 the library received quite a few substantial donations of manuscripts. Still, a donation of posters by the renowned collector Paul

Lipschutz, making the National Library's collection of posters one of the largest in the world, was by far the most important addition of documents.

The first step towards a national repository of journals was taken with the organisation of a central collection of medical journals placed in an external stack building some 40 kilometres north-west of Stockholm.

Nowadays, repositories are often digital, and housed in servers instead of buildings. The National Library supports the Open Access movement in scholarly publishing. An important part of that movement is the openly accessible, digital archives organised by the universities and university colleges. The library co-funded this development. An ongoing project deals with the development of a common search tool, called SwePub.

#### *Relationship to government - relevant legislation*

The national Library is a government agency, serving directly under the Ministry of Education.

Examples of laws and regulations specific to the National Library are the mission statement, the annual budgetary instructions, and the Legal Deposit Law.

#### *Key facts and figures*

1. Number of staff: 310 (end of 2008)
2. Size of major collections: about 4 million volumes plus ephemera, periodicals, newspapers
3. Total operating budget: 284 754 000 sek
4. Visits per day: 543
5. Virtual visits per year: 3371000
6. Library open: 300 days a year, 61 hours per week
7. Shelf metres, printed books and periodicals: 132 147
8. Printed current periodicals: 11 966
9. Electronic current periodicals: 3958
10. Local loans: 100 970
11. Interlibrary loans: 8090
12. Reference questions: 22 932
13. Searchquestions in OPAC: 589 700

KjN, 2009-04-29  
(additional data June'09)