

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010 (FOR THE YEAR 2009)**

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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.

### **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.

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

- 6,000,000 books and journals, 17,900,000 prints and photographs, 7,200,000 pamphlets and corporate publications, 1,000,000 other materials (32,100,000 total items)

- Staff: 610 persons, 429 FTE

- Budget (2009): 340 mio. Danish Kroner (45,6 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, pursuant to Act no. 1439 of 22. December 2004. 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 one milliard objects (22,933 gigabytes) have been net harvested. They are kept on special servers in The Royal Library and the State and University Library in Århus.

Archiving of the Danish part of the internet is part of a specific task, which is solved in collaboration with the State and University Library under the auspices of the Net Archive. The department cooperates primarily with other institutions under the Ministry of Culture as well as with colleagues from sister institutions abroad.

One very big challenge in connection with legal deposit of the Danish Internet is that conditions up till now only allow researchers access to the collected material because of copyright legislation and personal data legislation. The politicians have wanted to find a solution that makes it possible – within the framework of the law – to gain access for the public to larger or smaller parts of the archive. It was hoped that a solution would be forthcoming in 2008, but a planned revision of the act has now been postponed to 2010. When the Danish parliament postponed the decision on increased access until 2010, the reason was the desire for The Royal Library and the State and University Library to carry out a review which would further elucidate i.a. the accessibility of data on the one hand and the protection of sensitive personal data on the other.

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

Half of The Royal Library's nitrate negatives, about 880,000, have now been placed in a permanent cold stack in Store Dyrehave, run by The Danish Film Institute. The climate is - 5°C and 30% RH, and this means that the cellulose nitrate is protected against self-ignition, and the lifespan has at the same time improved considerably.

Good storage conditions are a fundamental prerequisite for preserving The Royal Library's collections for posterity. Also after the establishment of new climate-controlled book and photo stacks in Njalsgade in 2008, good and safe conditions must be upheld in the other stack buildings. An open eye is still being kept on the cleaning in those stacks that require a special effort. The climate in the stacks is assessed in relation to the materials that are kept there, and

here the quality of air plays a part, too. Measuring of the level of air pollution is therefore being taken into consideration when determining how the stacks should be run.

The Department of Preservation has participated in the work on the mounting of objects in the library's exhibitions. The objects have been mounted, external loans examined upon receipt, and during the exhibition the climate has been checked currently in the exhibition rooms. The Department of Preservation also contributes through loan of the library's objects to other institutions' exhibitions, where condition reports are prepared, and in certain cases specific standard requirements stipulated for very fragile objects.

As opposed to the library's printed materials much electronic material has a very limited lifespan. Data on a disc or a CD perish within a very short time – between 10 and 20 years, which in terms of preservation is just a brief moment. The oldest games in the library's collections have just turned eleven, so both the age of the games and the volume indicate that it is high time for the library to step up the active preservation effort. The Department of Legal Deposit and the Department of Digital Preservation have therefore placed extra focus on the task of ensuring that this essential part of the cultural production of the present continues to be made available to future generations.

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

It is part of The Royal Library's vision to develop the digital infrastructure for Danish research and for the nation as a whole. For the strategic plan spanning the period 2007-10 the strategy includes further development of the digital aspect of the activities through a targeted increase of the digital part of the library's collections and of the net-borne accessibility of collections and information. In the first phases of the digital age the main emphasis was on retro-conversion of catalogues and purchase of digital information from external suppliers. Over the past few years The Royal Library has been launching an extensive digitisation programme, which as far as the National Library is concerned, will result in digitisation of the entire national literature and extensive parts of the remaining national collections with a view to increased use independent of time and place.

The first mass-digitisation project in the cultural sector in Denmark, defined as a total digitisation of everything from the first to the last shelf, has now been set into motion through a ground-breaking international public-private partnership.

In May 2009 The Royal Library therefore entered into an agreement with one of the major publishing companies in the world, the British *ProQuest*, to quality-digitise all Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic and Schleswig printed books and pamphlets from the first Danish book, printed in 1482, and until 1700, including also all books printed abroad which had associations to Denmark. The project is estimated as including 16,200 units and about 2,8 mil. pages. It is furthermore the first mass-digitisation *agreement* in the world between a national library and *ProQuest*, and through the epoch-making international agreement The Royal Library, both in content, quality and conditions, lives up to its vision of being among the leading national and university libraries in Europe.

The digitised versions of the printed books will be of high quality in all respects. The digitisation included not only picture scanning of the *content* in the form of texts, illustrations, maps, handwritten notes and additions, but also pictures of all books as *objects*, which include binding, cover and face, so that it becomes the most extensive reproduction of these works from any point of view that has been undertaken ever. There will be free access for all in Denmark and via license for foreign countries.

Along with the *ProQuest* project the library works in prioritised order and project-orientated on preserving and making available parts of the national library's collections via the net. Examples of this are:

In 2008 The Royal Library received a large donation which made it possible to digitise part of Chief Rabbi and professor David Simonsen's collections, in the Oriental and Judaica Department acquired by the library in 1932. About 160 manuscripts and ca. 100,000 letter pages. On 30. September 2009 the first part of this project, the digital facsimile editions of David Simonsen manuscript collection, was published.

The *Greenland Portal*, established last year, has been extended considerably by the digitisation of 44 and 17 diaries respectively, by Greenland explorers Knud Rasmussen and Ajar Mikkelsen.

Just fewer than 600 older detailed overviews of the content of private archives have been digitised and established with links from the relevant records in REX. In connection with the loan of the manuscript for the exhibition, of the Norwegian-Danish author Knud Hamsun's *Mysteries*, the manuscript has been digitised and placed on the net.

It is now possible to show both the bibliographic descriptions and the digital versions of the maps in *Frederic V's Atlas*, a tome from the 1700s in 55 volumes with 3,535 maps of the entire world. An inclusive digitised edition of this atlas has for six years been available on the net to the great benefit of the users, but until now it has only been possible to show the maps of Danish areas together with a bibliographic record.

After the completion of a pilot project concerning registration of the National Museum of Photography's works in *Art Index Denmark* in 2008, the registration has moved into the operational phase from February 2009, financed by a foundation grant, and by the end of the year more than 3,700 of the museum's works had been registered in the first two years via *Regin*, the Heritage Agency of Denmark's registration tool. All registrations can be seen in *Art Index Denmark* <http://www.kulturarv.dk/kid/Forside.do>, where the descriptive data are accompanied by a digital thumbnail of the work. The number of unregistered works is estimated at 34,000, and it is the responsibility of the Department of Maps, Prints and Photographs to make sure that the collection is registered.

Also in 2009 the library focused on digital dissemination of the 'Danish song treasure'. The initiative started with *Year of the song* in 2008 and has continued with songs by Carl Nielsen as the theme. The chosen songs are as far as possible introduced with the story of their making, publication and usage.

The Danish Library of Digitised Sheet Music – the collection of digitised reproductions of a number of the library's sheet music collections – is particularly favoured by flautists. And there is indeed lots of material for this instrument. In 2009 the Music and Theatre Department placed the focus on the Danish composer, Fr. Chula (1786-1832), whose sheet music is still being used frequently in international musical life. By the end of the year 63 works from the composer's production were available on the net – ready to print out and place on the music stand.

The Museum of Danish Cartoon Art has been placed under the auspices of The Royal Library since 1998. The history of the museum offers an account of the collection of about 200,000 cartoons from the 19. and 20. century and following that - of the future project concerning sorting, registration, digitisation and dissemination. The budget is DKK five million over four years and organised as a special project under the Department of Maps, Prints and Photographs in collaboration with The Independent Institution for the promotion of the Museum of Danish Cartoon Art. The project is launched on the basis of two large donations from private foundations.

Department of Cultural Activities is responsible for The Royal Library's cultural activities, including content, idea development, information and marketing of such activities. It concerns the following areas: Concerts, exhibitions, travelling exhibitions, cultural arrangements, visits and conducted tours, scientific and popular lectures, lecture series, debates etc. The department is also responsible for marketing of the cultural activities, supervision and help in connection with design programs. Add to this, running and renting of the Queen's Hall and the library's meeting rooms for concerts, meetings and conferences as well as the running of the Reception in The Black Diamond. The department is responsible for the managing and development of the Diamond Club, Students Only!, The National Museum of Photography and the Museum of Danish Cartoon Art.

The idea of getting well-known artists to get to grips with the cultural heritage in an exhibition context underlines The Royal Library's desire to bring cultural heritage into the future in a way that is interesting to the public.

Apart from its subject, the exhibition *Maps, Myths and Narratives. Cartography of the Far North* was special in relation to the use of The Royal Library's public areas as exhibition area. Armed with your personal map, you could explore the library's corridors and via the meeting with flying birds, an awesome polar bear, a wolf and other stuffed arctic animals you could get an inkling of what the first explorers encountered when reaching the North Pole. The exhibition had five main themes, which i.a. dealt with the pioneer expeditions and the earliest charting of Greenland. With a mixture of unique maps, aerial photographs, texts and objects, the exhibition explained about the last coastal area being drawn, about the first airplanes in Greenland, about one of the pioneers of geology, about the attempt to find "pots of gold at the end of the rainbow" and much, much more. The exhibition was made possible through a donation from A.P. Møller and wife Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller's Foundation for General Purposes.

*Diamantbladet (The Diamond Magazine)* is The Royal Library's cultural magazine, published four times a year. Based on the library's collections and the Department of Cultural

Activities' arrangements, *Diamantbladet* represents the Danish cultural heritage at work. The magazine covers a wide range of subjects.

The target group is The Royal Library's consumers of culture, as well as the large group of students and teachers from educational institutions in the Copenhagen area. In connection with *Diamanten* a culture-calendar is printed in 16,000 copies and distributed free of charge. In 2009 work started on reorganizing and modernizing *Diamanten*. The work finishes in April 2010, where the first issue with the new layout is published.

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

The Royal Library participates in an EU co-financed project, EuropeanaConnect (<http://www.europeanaconnect.eu/>), where DIS is in charge of a work package, which primarily deals with user involvement. The elements in the work package are "deep log analysis", mobile access to material, geographical access and structuring of user involvement. The project is a support project for *Europeana* (see: [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu)), which is an integrated access to online European cultural heritage from museums and archives. The overall purpose is to contribute to the realisation of *Europeana* as a multi-lingual and user-oriented service to all European citizens. 30 partners from 14 different countries participate in the project, which started in May and will be completed in 2011, under the management of the Austrian National Library.

The WEB-section, which provides by far the major part of The Royal Library's initiatives in connection with the project, has in 2009 held an international workshop that delivered input to a catalogue of so-called *Europeana Personas*. Personas are not actual people, but a kind of model user created on the basis of research results concerning search and behaviour patterns among the users. Of the seven personas, which were developed for the catalogue, four have been chosen to guide the further development of services and marketing in connection with *Europeana*. One of The Royal Library's objectives in participating in the project is also to collect and organise own knowledge about user involvement in a way that will benefit the entire library. A catalogue was started in 2009 with guidelines for how to conduct user surveys – when in the process it becomes relevant to include the users, and which methods are appropriate to use in order to get certain types of input for the development of new or test of already existing services. The catalogue must be completed by the end of 2010 and will give not only the project, but also The Royal Library, a more focused and hands-on approach to user inclusion.

The EU-election, held on 7 June, the municipal election, held on 17 November, and the climate summit meeting COP15 in December were predictable events, where the harvesting of web pages could be planned in advance. From earlier elections harvested by the Net Archive, the library has got lists of web pages for parties, associations and organizations, and web pages published by the public sector that all have or are expected to have information concerning an election. This list is currently being extended with the nominated candidates' web pages and other relevant web pages that members of staff become aware of, and the URLs on the list are incorporated in the harvester programme.

The EU-election marked the beginning of an international cooperation, when seven national libraries came together for the process of harvesting the election. The aim was to exchange experiences about harvesting of events with the emphasis on content, i.e. according to which guidelines the harvesting took place, how often it was done, and how agreements on collection, copyright and access were handled. Each country harvested web pages related to the election that were relevant to themselves and then shared the experiences with the other countries in a common forum. This collaboration was a manifestation of the fact that although the purpose of web archiving is to collect, preserve and disseminate each country's online cultural heritage, it is a task that due to its complexity must be solved together, which i.a. happens through IIPC (International Internet Preservation Consortium), which The Royal Library and the State and University Library helped establish in 2003. It was agreed with colleagues in IIPC to assist in the autumn 2009 when the climate summit meeting was approaching, and as a result very useful lists of URLs were sent to the French National Library.