

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2011 (FOR THE YEAR 2010)**

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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: 593 persons, 426 FTE

- Budget (2010): 336,5 mio. Danish Kroner (45,1)

#### **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 crawling". This takes place at regular intervals according to a specific plan. A total of 5,4 milliard objects (173.000 gigabytes) have been net harvested according to the new law. They are kept on special servers in The Royal Library and the State and University Library in Aarhus.

On the first of July 2010 it was five years since the present Act on Legal Deposit came into force, and *Netarkivet.dk* dispatched the first crawler to harvest the Danish internet. This event was celebrated at a gathering at the State and University Library and also provided an occasion for taking a look back over the five years.

In 2010 the department's staff could concentrate on adapting and trimming the crawling programmes, so that as many web pages as possible with information carrying data could be harvested and pages with insignificant information be avoided, (such as "tip a friend", different type sizes, print and other crawler traps). It requires a discerning eye and training by the employee to be able to read log files and interpret interminable URLs as well as a feeling for the net and for the advantages and disadvantages of crawling programmes.

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

To the outsider the preservation endeavour will for the most part be invisible and it can be difficult to imagine what actually happens. This situation was remedied via the performance theatre group Hotel Pro Forma's exhibition UNDERCOVER at The Royal Library. Here the conservators were given a voice in a story about where focus in the preservation work is placed. Not only treasures from the collections found their way to the exhibition, but also the particular deterioration phenomena of paper and photographic negatives were on display together with the many remedies from a profession that is based on a mixture of scientific, humanistic, technical and craftsman like knowledge.

In the Main Collection the conservation work has been focused on works which subsequently were to be digitised, so that conservation could prevent further damage to the works. At the beginning of the year the last books in the ProQuest project were conserved; this incorporated digitisation of printed Danish national literature from the period 1482-1600

as well as a number of astronomy titles. A few months later preparations started for a digitisation of the period 1601-1700, and the Department of Preservation went through the first catalogues and marked up for conservation and boxes. Altogether the process involved over 12,000 items, and from the very beginning the conservation was given highest priority in the department's work, so that all the damaged books can be treated before digitisation. The Department of Preservation works closely together with the Catalogue Department in this project and the conservation workshop is placed in close proximity to this department.

The bookbinder profession is still being practised in the Department of Preservation and two of the department's bookbinders, Hanna Christensen and Inger Mønster Marker were both represented with a cover each among the five selected covers at the Foreningen for Boghåndværk exhibition of best book binding of the year, which took place at the Danish Museum of Decorative Art in June 2010.

On the occasion of her 70th birthday Her Majesty Queen Margrethe – in connection with her visit to the library on 16. June – was presented with a special edition of John Bergsagel's edition of the Knud Lavard manuscript. The binding for this edition had been designed by Hanna Christensen and featured a white parchment binding with a printed decoration. The Queen also received a new edition of three orchestral works by H.C. Lumbye, these had been bound by Inger Mønster Marker with a green leather spine and decorated coating paper.

“Digital preservation” includes all the challenges that have to make sure that digital material will continue to be readable and understandable for several generations to come, where systems, programs and utility purposes have changed in a direction we are not able to imagine at all and where future users only have the knowledge about the materials available which we have secured survival. At The Royal Library the work with digital preservation is for the fifth year running organised in a small specialist unit within the National Library, which has the responsibility – in close interaction with the Department of Preservation – for the physical material and all the departments which are engaged in building digital collections which must be preserved.

Both in public and private spheres the volume of digital pictures, sound, film text and other data is growing at an explosive rate. Part of the flow of data arrives at the cultural preservation institutions that have to keep track of the cultural heritage of the present time for future generations. But how to preserve digital collections so that data can be read and understood despite the swift technological development? This as well as many other questions about digital preservation the homepage [digitalpreservation.dk](http://digitalpreservation.dk) now provides the answer to. The target group for the homepage is archives, libraries and museums that are already working with or planning to work with digital preservation. But ordinary citizens may also produce some good ideas as to what to consider and what one can do to preserve one's digital memories.

Behind the homepage we find The Royal Library, the State and University Library, the National Archives and the Danish Film Institute, and here the partners disseminate the knowledge and the experiences, which they have gained through their many years of work with preservation of the digital cultural heritage. The State Archives have been receiving data and documents from public authorities' IT systems since the early 1970s. The National

Libraries have received data since the mid-1980s, when the publishers began to insert e.g. CD-ROMs in printed publications. The Danish Film Institute has restored films digitally since 2001 and has likewise received digital pictures and documentaries.

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

It is part of The Royal Library's vision to extend the digital infrastructure for Danish research and for the nation as a whole. For the performance contract period 2007-2010 the strategy includes a further development of the hybrid library through a continuous extension of the digital part of the library via a targeted increase of the digital part of the library's collections and of the net borne accessibility of collections and information. In the initial phases of the digital age, the main emphasis was on retro-conversion of catalogues and purchase of digital information from external suppliers.

The first mass digitisation project in the Danish cultural sector, defined as a total digitisation of everything from the first to the last shelf, has now been set in motion via an epoch-making international public-private partnership. In 2009 The Royal Library therefore made an agreement with one of the largest publishing concerns in the world, the British concern *ProQuest* on quality-digitising all Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic and Slesvig printed books and pamphlets from the first Danish book, which was printed in 1482, and until 1700. It is, furthermore, the first mass digitisation agreement in the world between a national library and *ProQuest*, and through this extraordinary international agreement The Royal Library – both in terms of content, quality and conditions – lives up to its vision of being among the leading national and university libraries in Europe.

The digitisation does not only include picture scanning of *content* in the shape of texts, illustrations, maps and handwritten notes and additions, but also pictures of all books as *objects*, including binding, cover and face, making it the most extensive reproduction of these works ever made – in all possible respects. The digitised works were made available in 2010 via the ProQuest database *Early European Books*. This is a payment database, but due to a special agreement between ProQuest and The Royal Library, the library has secured the works for everyone in Denmark by making them available without charge for everyone with a Danish IP-address.

A number of the library's digitised collections have in 2010 been disseminated via *Europeana*, which is a common European platform for dissemination of digitised collections and financed by the European Commission.

An extensive effort is being made within the area of retro-digitisation, where the library's physical collections are digitised and made available on the internet. The overall objective with the policy of retro-digitisation is that ultimately it should result in the digitisation of the entire national literature and part of the other national collections with a view to increased usage, independent of time and place. At the same time it will also be possible to make the collections available in new ways which will increase their value in terms of research. A large number of projects have either been completed in 2010, are in progress or are under preparation.

Concurrently with *ProQuest* the library is working in prioritized order and project-oriented on preserving and making available parts of the national library's collections via the net. As examples of this work one should mention:

Completed digitisation of chief rabbi David Simonsen's archive of more than 30,000 letters, completed digitisation of all The Royal Library's manuscripts by the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, ca. 800 pages. A continued digitisation of The National Museum of Photography's collections of 40,000-45,000 works and continued digitisation of 200,000 drawings in The Museum of Danish Cartoon Art.

In 2010 The Royal Library received a grant of DKK 4,5 mil. from the Ministry of Culture's funds for the purpose of digitisation of ca. 200,000 aerial photographs with motives from the island of Funen. Funen has been chosen, as it is a natural geographical demarcation, which is representative as regards variation in landscape and trades. "Funen – Denmark in a nutshell" is the name of the project. The vision is through topographical pictures to narrate Denmark's cultural-geographical and cultural-historical development in the 20. century.

Materials by the following Danish authors and archives have been digitised: Knud Rasmussen (21 vol. from 5. Thule expedition); Faroese ballads, recorded 1819; August Strindberg (*The Vivisection*, 1894); a farming almanac from 1513 (NKS 901 octave); Karen Blixen (*Out of Africa etc*); Carsten Niebuhr's album; Poul Martin Møller (*The Licentiate etc.*), the Danish national literature up until 1600 (online in *Early European Books, EEB*).

The key figures about the study environment in The Black Diamond show a fall of 7% in the use of the reading rooms from 347,804 in 2009 to 321,993 in 2010, but the place was frequently used by students not only from Copenhagen University, but also from Roskilde University and Copenhagen Business School.

At certain times of the year all seats are occupied, and even the staircases are being used. The Information Hall has also attracted a large number of people, and in order to accommodate the crowds the library had to use not entirely contemporary pieces of furniture.

In 2010, however, it became possible to acquire new furniture which is modern but even so fits in with the old library design and matches the colours both in the old building and in Per Kirkeby's ceiling painting.

As members of The Royal Library's culture club, the Diamond Club, the library's users and other people with an interest in culture are presented with many advantageous offers and easy access to lectures, International Writer's Scene, debates, concerts, exhibitions, private views and exclusive arrangements for members only. 2010 featured several of such arrangements. In order to be able to offer more, and hopefully also more interesting, initiatives in the future, the club wanted in 2010 to get to know its members better: What was their background? What kind of arrangements did they like? A club evening, interviews and a focus group were the first steps in that direction. The library will continue this work for the Diamond Club in 2011.

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe of Denmark celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 16. April.

With the exhibition *The Face of a Queen – one among many* the Museum of Danish Cartoon Art, The Royal Library, put focus on the art of portraiture in Danish cartoon art and its development over more than 100 years. The exhibition showed portrait drawings of a large number of well-known as well as unknown persons, and as a tribute to the Queen on the occasion of her 70-year birthday the same year, a series of portraits of her and the royal family were displayed. The exhibited works were a mixture of more than 250 drawings from the Museum of Cartoon Art's collections and borrowed works, which in the majority of cases have been published everywhere from major national newspapers to local media.

In collaboration with the Danish Defence Museum The Royal Library celebrated the Navy's 500 years jubilee with a large exhibition, based on the golden days of the navy in the 1700s. A collaboration and a celebration that The Royal Library i.a. became part of because the library contains numerous collections of books, handsomely illustrated manuscripts and drawings about the subject from exactly this period. Armed with a map of the library's corridors and an MP3-guide narrating naval officer Peter Schønning's diary, visitors were taken through the exhibition's four themes: "The Sea Cadet Training", "The Navy and Copenhagen", "Life on board" and "Sea Battles", each of which were illustrated through a large selections of objects; from pictures, maps, manuscripts and books to drawings, canons and weapons. The exhibition was accompanied by a series of lectures with focus on naval history over a period of 500 years.

In 2008-2009 it was the turn of the all-round artist Robert Wilson and in 2010 focus turned onto the experimental theatre and performance group Hotel Pro Forma who create exhibition works as part of The Royal Library's attempt to rethink the dissemination of the cultural heritage and create new and surprising exhibition experiences for the public. The exhibition UNDERCOVER was a thought-provoking depiction of the actual large knowledge organism which constitutes The Royal Library. A peep into the machinery among specialists and myriads of different material. The library's collections as a clear, richly detailed landscape are fascinating, but also inaccessible to a person wandering about on his own. Based partly on individual works and partly on the library's labyrinthine world of rooms, stories and people Hotel Pro Forma created a pleasure trip around The Royal Library, where surprising connections emerged when unknown or overlooked phenomena were placed in focus and in a new light. The daily paper, Berlingske Tidende, ranked the exhibition as number 8 out of all Danish exhibitions that year. In connection with the exhibition a talk was arranged with Kirsten Dehlholm, artistic leader and founder of Hotel Pro Forma, about the work involved with staging the exhibition and about the group's other productions over 25 years.

The Royal Library's DANIDA-financed project entitled *Institutional strengthening and capacity enhancement* in support of the National Library and Archives of Bhutan (NLAB) expired on 31. December 2010 after 15 years of consultancy assistance and knowledge sharing in combination with delivery of IT equipment, cameras for digitisation of the handwritten and block-printed cultural heritage, both stationary on NLAB and in the form of a mobile repro-initiative in collections throughout Bhutan. An Aleph catalogue database has now been established of more than 130,000 out of NLAB's total holdings of 180,000 titles, and courses in Aleph have been completed, partly at NLAB, partly at The Royal Library. At the end of the project the base, which is being hosted by The Royal Library, is the most extensive and detailed Tibetan online database in the world.

In October the Department of Preservation acted as host to an international seminar arranged in collaboration with the working group Graphic Documents under the international museum organisation ICOM's Committee for Conservation. The meeting took place on 6.-8. October and attracted 69 delegates from the international world of conservation. Lectures and posters were presented, and the participants had the opportunity to discuss the many new challenges in the conservation profession.

The National Museum of Photography consists partly of pictures purchased by the museum, partly by pictures taken from the Collection of Pictures. The latter pictures have not been registered until 2008, where a pilot project was set in motion, which resulted in a decision to register pictures in *Kunstindeks Danmark* (Art Index Denmark). At the same time as the registration of a work, a thumb nail of the work is published so that you can "leaf through" the Museum's collections online. In 2010 the number of registrations in *Kunstindeks Danmark* reached the figure of 10,000 pictures, which makes the Museum one of the absolute major contributors to *Kunstindeks Danmark*.

In August research librarians from The Royal Library attended the "Harvest Conference" arranged by the Norwegian ABM-Nettverk for photography held in Vadsø. The Network made an appraisal of the project "Widerøes skråfoto tilbake til folket", whose purpose is to collect and digitise Widerøes Flyselskap a/s' flight archive. In this connection Henrik Dupont gave a talk on the history of Danish aerial photo history back to 1890, and spoke about challenges of aerial photography in terms of preservation and mediation. Mette Kia Krabbe Meyer gave a lecture on flying as dream and dystopia as represented by the Danish surrealist painter Vilhelm Bjerke Petersen and in the international avant-garde, and there was then a chance to exchange experiences on the mediation of aerial photographs. Apart from aerial photography the conference dealt with the subject of daguerreotype, and there was an opportunity to meet representatives from Photo Museum Antwerp, who spoke about Daguerreobase, a European Daguerreotype database, which The Royal Library plans to collaborate with in an EU project, as the library has a considerable collection of more than 700 daguerreotypes.

The annual Book Seminar for researchers and particular enthusiasts, number 16 in the series, was held on 29. October 2010, where six researchers presented ongoing or completed relevant projects. The theme of the year was "important book tomes", where "important" is taken to mean either in terms of content of the work or form – or both.

8. March 2010 was a milestone, namely the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day. In collaboration between KVINFORM, Goethe-Institute Denmark, prominent women from all over the world and The Royal Library an invitation was issued to the conference "Women of the world in The Diamond". Among the speakers at the conference were Egyptian women's activist Nawal El-Saadawi, one of the main forces behind more recent American feminism Naomi Wolf, the young Saudi film director Haifaa Al-Mansour and Danish author Suzanne Brøgger. Through panel sessions and papers presented the objective was to debate women's challenges from a global perspective, celebrate the centenary, take stock and look ahead with a critical mind.

The Royal Library's student network *Students Only!* arranged a large number of events particularly for students. At the arrangement "When talent is not enough – the quest for

virtuosity” ballet master at The Royal Theatre Nikolaj Hübbe and expert on talent development Claus Buhl spoke about what demanding perfectionism entails. At the start of the semester following the summer break the students were invited to a party, and like the previous year it attracted a large crowd. About 2,600 guests got in, while many unfortunately had to walk away disappointed. The music for the celebrating guests was provided by well-known bands and DJs

## **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 2009 and will be completed in 2011, under the management of the Austrian National Library.

On 19. May nine institutions and organisations, including The Royal Library, met in the Hague in order to set up the *Open Planets Foundation* (OPF). The objective for OPF and its members is to meet the challenges of digital long-term preservation with knowledge of best practice and access to generally well-known and applied solutions. The vision for OPF is to become the organisation to tie together important initiatives within the field. OPF is established in the wake of the EU project *PLANETS*, where together with the project’s other 15 partners The Royal Library has contributed to ensuring a coordinated European initiative in terms of logical preservation of digital material. Over the past four years the project has delivered research and development of methods and tools which will help solving the dual challenge of responsibly preserving digital material and at the same time ensuring coming generations’ access to the material. The *PLANETS* project finished with massive international publicity, when on 18. May a time capsule with a Digital Genome was deposited in the top security data centres deep in the Swiss Alps. Inside the time capsule are five digital objects, both in commonly available and widely known dissemination formats and in standard preservation formats, and all the descriptions of how, if necessary, one can recreate the hardware and the software, which one needs in order to access and understand these files, are also available in the capsule.