



Annual report  
**2012**



Minister of Culture Hadia Tajik and National Librarian Vigdis Moe Skarstein welcomed the new **bokhylla.no** when it was launched on 11 October.

**In line with** the library's mandate and primary objectives, our most important areas of focus in 2012 related to:

- Further development of the digital National Library
- National library policy and library development
- The development of the National Library's role as research infrastructure.

## The digital National Library

**In October 2012** the Minister of Culture, Hadia Tajik, opened the Bokhylla ("Bookshelf") website at bokhylla.no as a permanent service. At the time the service was launched, 104,000 books were available online. In time, bokhylla.no will make available 250,000 books – i.e. all the books published in Norway up until the year 2000. These are being added gradually as they are digitised by the National Library of Norway. Both the agreement with Kopinor, which represents rightsholders' organisations, and the service itself are unique in an international context.

As many as 51 million page views were recorded through bokhylla.no over the year, an increase of 50 per cent over 2011. During 2012, a total of 217,143,574 hits and downloads from nb.no were recorded. This is a considerable increase, indicating that, for its users, the National Library of Norway is essentially a digital library.



**The digital newspaper service**, which is based on agreements between an increasing number of Norwegian newspapers and the National Library and which provides Norwegian libraries with access to historic newspaper archives, has been taken up in more than 330 Norwegian libraries.

The development of a systematic digitisation process is the underlying reason why the National Library has made such progress in its development of digital services, both direct online services and through other libraries. In 2012 the digitisation programme proceeded well ahead of schedule, with 40 per cent more content added than the goal set for the year.

*330 Norwegian  
libraries have access  
to historic newspaper  
archives*





Over the last year the following have been digitised:

- 62,000 books (7.9 million book pages)
  - 127,000 newspaper editions (4.6 million newspaper pages)
  - Approximately 52,000 photographs
  - 93,000 pages of handwritten documents and music manuscripts
  - Approximately 19,000 hours of historic radio material
  - More than 3,600 recordings from various tape formats and 78s
  - Approximately 2.4 million pages of proceedings from the Storting (Norwegian parliament).
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In February the new digitisation building in Rana was officially opened by the then Minister of Culture, Anniken Huitfeldt, here pictured with Deputy National Librarian Roger Jøsevold.



# National library development

**Establishing infrastructure** for other libraries and enabling others to use and develop the services and offerings that the National Library develops has also been a focus area in 2012. The development of the digital services, library search and the preparation of material for other libraries' use in connection with anniversaries and events are all examples of this. Use by other libraries of material produced in connection with exhibitions in the National Library has doubled from 2011 to 2012. Four poster exhibitions were created, which libraries throughout Norway were able to use free of charge.

PHOTO: Elisabeth Tønnessen



Other activities directed towards the library sector have included:

- Meetings with the advisory committee whose mandate is to consider where there is a need for new approaches as regards achieving political goals, developing common services and allocating development funds.
- Courses in making project applications
- Visits to local libraries
- Analyses of resource usage
- Meetings with the county library heads, the city libraries and the Norwegian Library Association
- The National Library has participated in and arranged a number of conferences
- The inclusion on the new nb.no website of a dedicated section for Library Development
- A report has been commissioned to consider whether it will be possible to establish a more binding co-operation between the National Library and university and college libraries regarding the legal deposit and storage of foreign periodicals in the depot library. The report will be concluded and reviewed in 2013
- Providing legal guidance

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Focus areas and projects in 2013 allocated in 2012

- Diversity and inclusion
- The cultural “packed lunch”
- Leseløftet (national reading campaign) for 2010–2014
- Co-operation and partnership
- New promotional methods
- The National Library’s digital services as a basis for new offerings.

During 2012 the National Library received a total of 127 applications for project and development funds. After consideration, 90 applications have been allocated funds in accordance with allocation letters from the Ministry of Culture.

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# Research infrastructure

**The National Library's role** in providing an infrastructure for research by organising and actively promoting the collection has been further reinforced in 2012. Språkbanken ("The Language Bank") is becoming increasingly operational, and more and more research projects are now using Språkbanken as part of their research base. A semantic word network and speech database have been developed as part of Språkbanken. In co-operation with the Research Council of Norway and the Language Council of Norway, the National Library has arranged a two-day workshop for development environments in industry and language-based IT.

## **Research conferences under the auspices of the National Library**

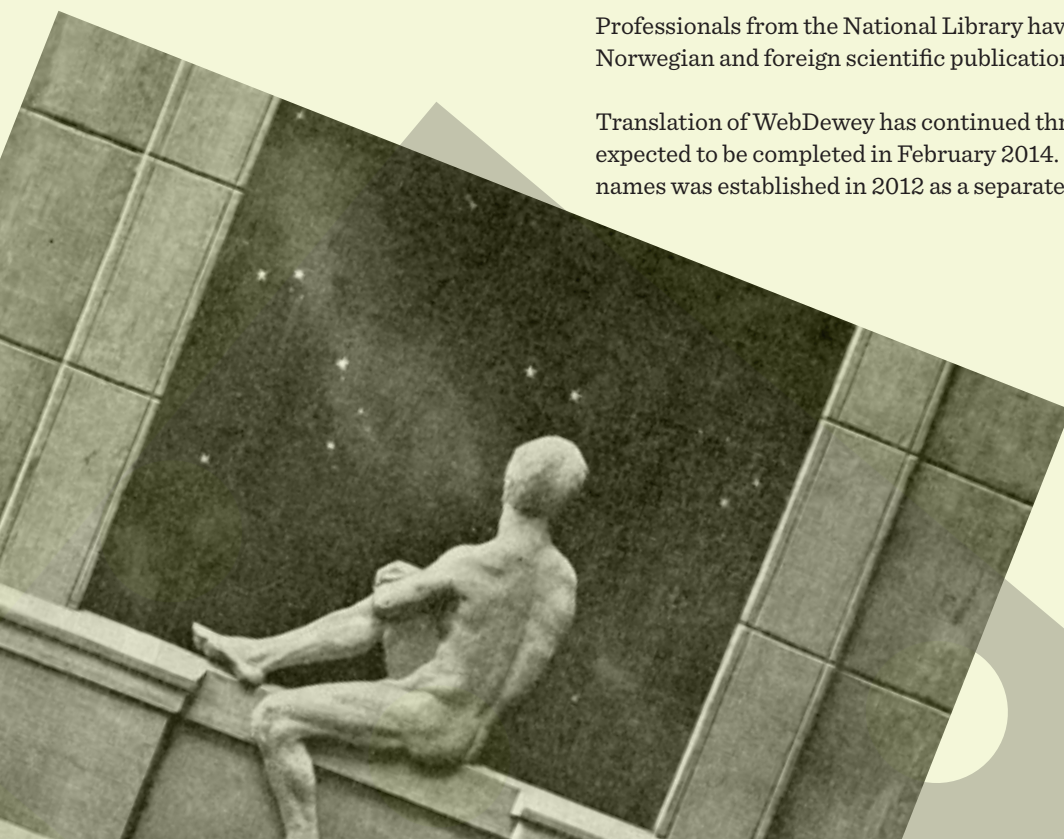
In 2012, three research conferences were held, with international participation:

- *Where Is the Letter?* (16 and 17 February)
- *From Greenland to Galapagos: Norwegian Expedition Films* (6 and 7 August)
- *Encyclopedias and Beyond* (8 and 9 November)

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Professionals from the National Library have contributed about 30 articles to Norwegian and foreign scientific publications.

Translation of WebDewey has continued throughout 2012, and the project is expected to be completed in February 2014. The national authority register for names was established in 2012 as a separate register within BIBSYS.



# The collection

There were small variations in the legal deposit of most types of material in 2012 compared with previous years. For instance, 10,286 books were legally deposited in 2012, compared with 10,039 in 2011. The biggest change can be seen in e-books: 313 were deposited in 2012, compared with just 48 the previous year.

As in previous years, the National Library has enhanced the collection by means of important new acquisitions. These included foreign technical literature, electronic support resources and unique items that have been added in the form of gifts and strategic purchases.

*In 2012, 313 e-books were deposited, compared with just 48 the previous year.*

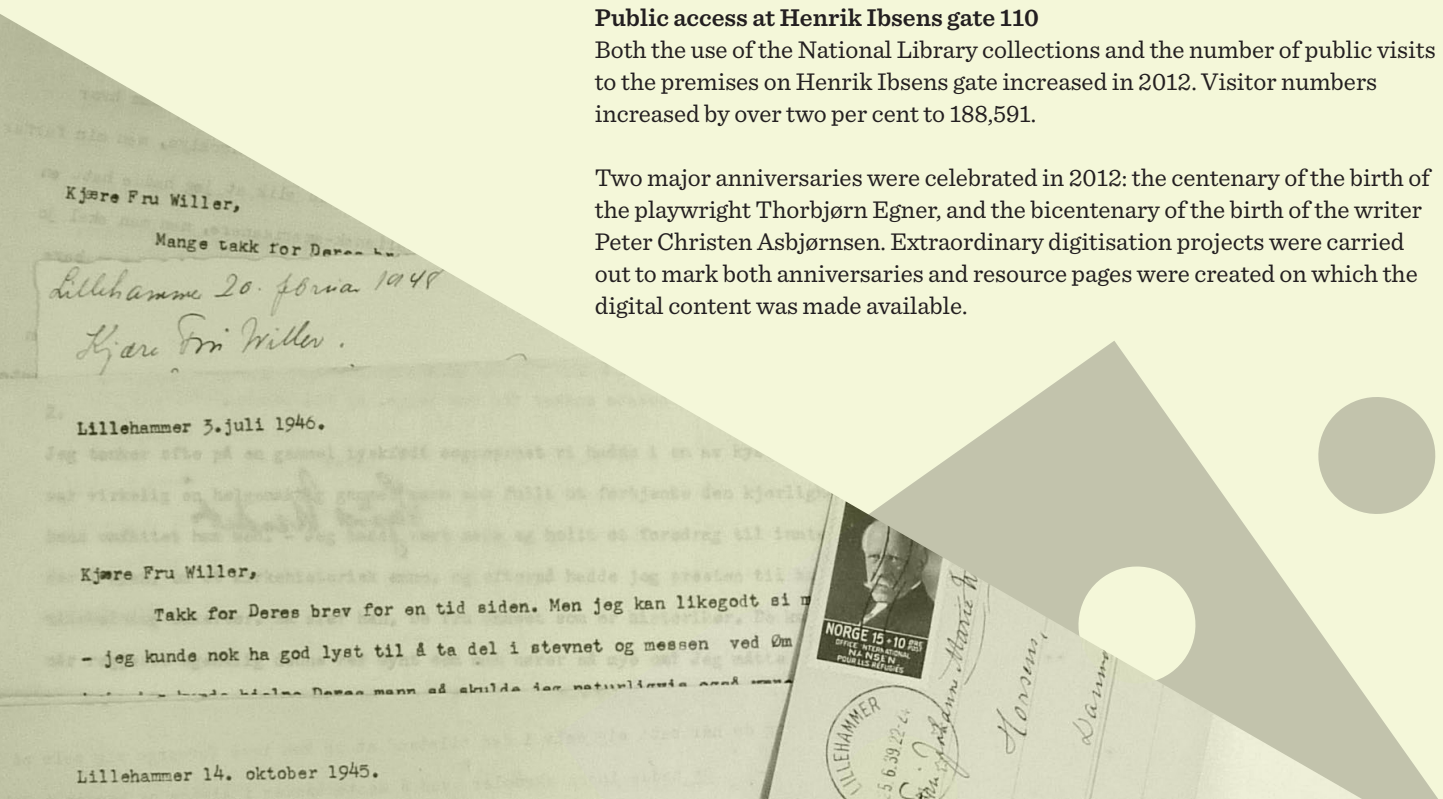
## Examples of some important acquisitions for the National Library's collection in 2012:

- Sigrid Undset: Handwritten manuscript of *Tre søstre* ("Three Sisters")
- Olaf Isaachsen: Collection of letters
- Marta Schumann: Archive
- Norsk Skuespillerforbund (Norwegian Actors' Equity Association): Archive
- Det Norske Teatret: Archive
- Anja Breien: Manuscripts, research notes and research photographs
- Marit Gabler: Cinema poster from Verdens-Teatret, Sarpsborg, 1909
- Ludvig O. Ravensberg: Archive

## Public access at Henrik Ibsens gate 110

Both the use of the National Library collections and the number of public visits to the premises on Henrik Ibsens gate increased in 2012. Visitor numbers increased by over two per cent to 188,591.

Two major anniversaries were celebrated in 2012: the centenary of the birth of the playwright Thorbjørn Egner, and the bicentenary of the birth of the writer Peter Christen Asbjørnsen. Extraordinary digitisation projects were carried out to mark both anniversaries and resource pages were created on which the digital content was made available.





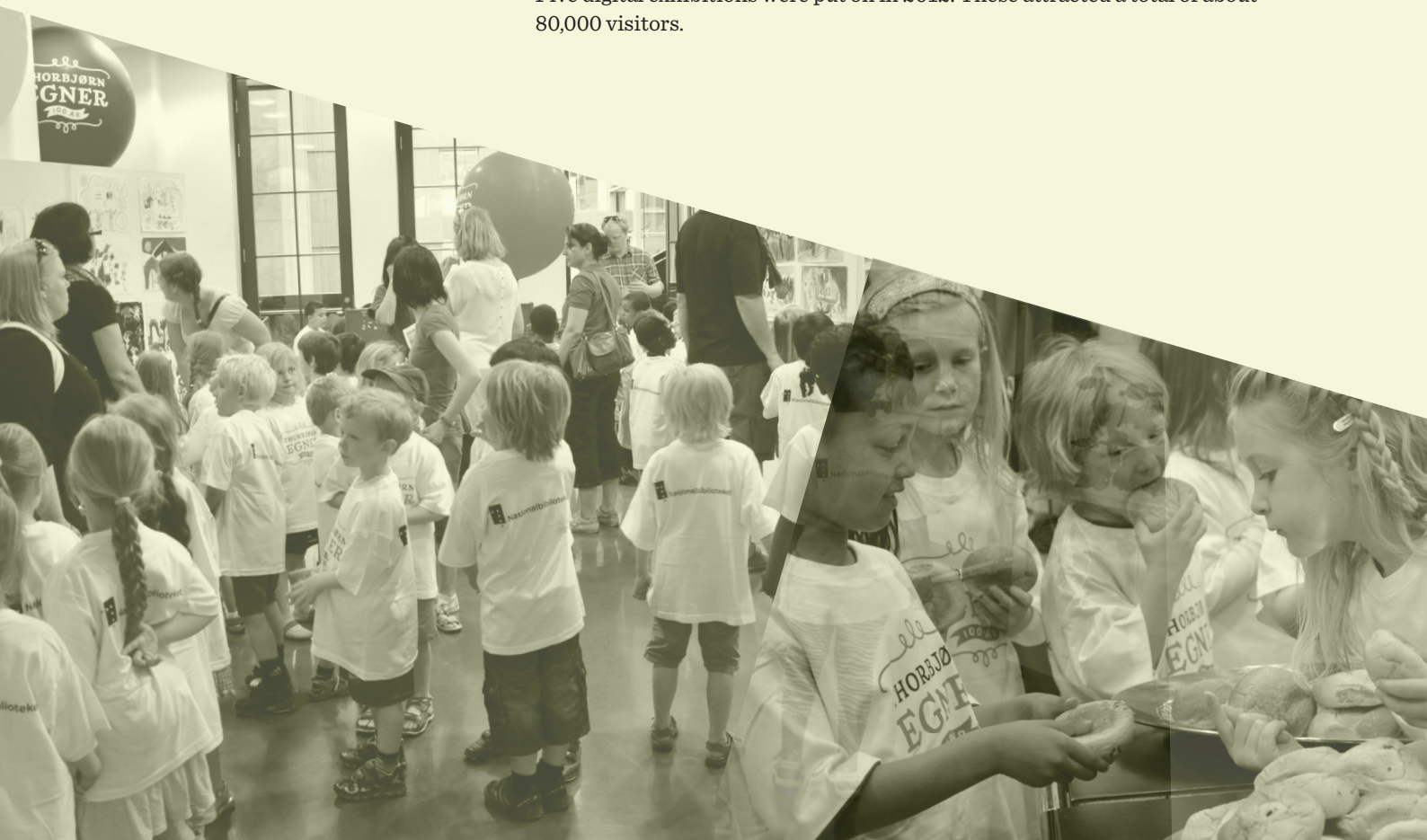


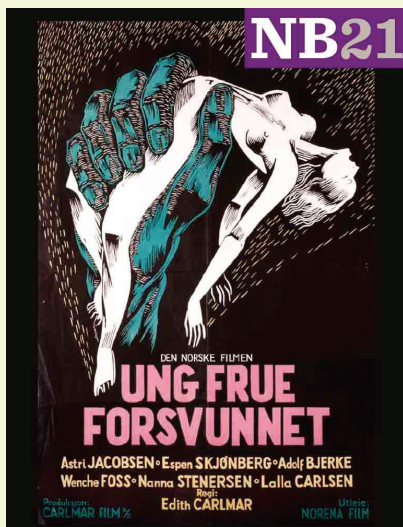
# Main exhibitions

- **Norske polarheltebilder 1888–1928 (Images of Norwegian polar heroes 1888–1928).**  
3,645 visitors
- **#VennligHilsen. Fra brev til Twitter (#YoursSincerely: From letter to Twitter).**  
2,013 visitors
- **Dyr, folk og røvere. På Egners arbeidsbord (Animals, people and robbers: On Egner's desk).**  
4,311 visitors
- **All verdens kunnskap. Leksikon fra perm til skjerm (All the world's knowledge: Encyclopaedias, from volume to screen).**  
1,830 visitors

In addition there were 12 mini-exhibitions and 60 events (exhibition openings and guided tours, lectures, concerts, screenings, family events, etc.).

Five digital exhibitions were put on in 2012. These attracted a total of about 80,000 visitors.





# Publications

One edition of the National Library's magazine, NB21, was published in 2012, and in connection with the exhibition "All the world's knowledge: Encyclopaedias, from volume to screen", the National Library published a book about encyclopaedias through the ages.

The National Library also issued a DVD of the 1926 film *Luftskipet Norges flukt over Polhavet* (The Airship Norge's Flight across the Arctic Ocean), together with a booklet that places the film within the context of the history of cinema and polar exploration. The DVD is based on a digital restoration taken from original nitrate copies found in Belgian and Swiss film archives.



# The National Library in the media

The opening of the new bokhylla.no website is the event that has generated the most press coverage about the National Library over the last year. Not only did about 100 media items address the opening itself, but the press has also shown continuing interest in Bokhylla. The Thorbjørn Egner centenary also received a lot of attention in the media, and the opening of the encyclopaedia exhibition attracted considerable coverage by NRK.

On 7 September the film *Luftskipet Norge's flukt over Polhavet* (The Airship Norge's Flight across the Arctic Ocean) was screened in Hydroparken in Oslo. The National Library has restored the documentary film about Amundsen, Ellsworth and Nobile's airship expedition across the Arctic Ocean in 1926.

