

## The National Library of Norway in 2007 - 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 main focus in 2007 was the development of the digital national library with emphasis on the establishment of processes of digitization and adaptation for digital mediation through the digital National Library, NBdigital. 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.

The volume of **digital content in NBdigital** increased during the year from 300 to 800 terabytes and the bulk of the growth in 2007 took place within the media groups: radio, books and newspapers. Visits to NBdigital increased by 22% over the same period.

2007 saw a pilot project in cooperation with two of the largest Norwegian newspapers (Aftenposten and Adresseavisen) concerning **digital deposit**. A harvesting of the .no top level domain was performed in 2007, and eight web newspapers were downloaded daily through the whole year (adessa.no, aftenposten.no, db.no, vg.no, nettavisen.no, altaposten.no and ranablad.no).

Following an **agreement of cooperation with several right holder organizations**, the National Library in 2007 launched its "**High North**" web site, where copyrighted material is made freely available in full text on the web. This agreement has attracted international attention and has been presented in various international forums. The project is a pilot which will be the basis for further dialogue on agreements on the publication of copyrighted content. [www.nb.no](http://www.nb.no).

In the 2007 state budget the National Library was assigned a national responsibility for **authors' anniversaries** and specifically for marking the bicentenary of Henrik Wergeland's birth in 2008 (jointly with the National Archival Services of Norway and Eidsvoll 1814), the Knut Hamsun sesquicentennial in 2009 and the centennial of Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's death in 2010. Cooperative forums for these events have been established together with national and local institutions and municipalities. There is also cooperation over web sites for these events, such as with the county of Vest-Agder over [Wergeland2008.no](http://Wergeland2008.no).

In addition to an extensive programme of events, the National Library held these main exhibitions in 2007:

- **TECHNE**

Technology and modern Norway. Exhibition in cooperation with NTNU.

- **“Menneskenes hjerter forandres aldeles intet i alle dager” (“The hearts of men never change in all times”)**

The debut and works of Sigrid Undset.

- **“Det finns saker man måste göra..” (“There are things one must do...”)**

Astrid Lindgren centenary. Exhibition in cooperation with the National Library of Sweden, Stockholm.

- **“Vær hilset...” (“I salute you...”)**

Petter Dass’ *Nordlands Trompet* through 300 years.

- **“Jeg har en koffert i Berlin” (“I have a suitcase in Berlin”)**

Norwegians in Berlin around 1900 and 2000.

In 2007 the National Library presented the **Sigrid Undset bibliography**, in addition to the annual bibliography of Norwegian literary research in *Norsk Litterær Årbok* (The Norwegian Literary Year in Review). This is in line with the goal of being a Norwegian bibliographic centre.

The **Sami Bibliography** has been the responsibility of the National Library since 1993. In this way the National Library is contributing to the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Norwegian indigenous people through surveying and preservation. Also, a major effort has been made to get an overview of the production of the Finnish-Norwegian photographer Kåre Kivijärvi.

The **Year of Cultural Diversity** in 2008, on the part of the National Library, means developing existing services so that they display diversity to an even greater extent. Planning exhibitions for 2008, the Wergeland exhibition and the Oslo Culture Night will form part of this effort. Measures are also being taken in order to extend legal deposit to an even greater part of what is published in other languages by ethnic minorities in Norway.

Many purchases of **cultural historical importance** were made in 2007. Quite unique was Hartman Schedel's *Liber chronicarum* (printed by Anton Koberger in Lübeck 1493).

At the end of the Ibsen year in 2007, the website **ibsen.net** was transferred to the National Library. A continuing development of this service will be part of the National Library’s internet strategy and internet services.

The **Beacon for Freedom of Expression** database, being Norway’s gift at the opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, was transferred to the National Library in 2007 as it took over the operational responsibilities for the service. A board with international representation has been established, chaired by Helge Sønneland.

In the autumn of 2006, the National Library joined the EU project **European Digital Library (EDL)**. The launch of the unified search function will take place in 2008.

The National Library also participated in the **International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC)** in 2007, with 10 other national libraries and the Internet Archive. The IIPC is made up of libraries, archives, museums and other institutions that work on the collection and preservation of content from the Internet. A decision has been made to extend and continue this cooperation during the period 2007 – 2009.

(<http://www.netpreserve.org>).

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. The aim of the project is the long-term preservation and use of digital documents in a safe manner.

The National Library further developed the close cooperation with **The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille** and the **Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation** in 2007, over the preservation of high quality digital sound files.

Through 2007 there was considerable public attention regarding the National Library's activities. The focus has especially been on digital libraries and digitization. The DIGG conference gathered international and national lecturers and garnered much attention in the media. Likewise, the exhibitions and events were well received. In addition, the media have employed the National Library's professional competence and collections as sources.

The high number of visitors in 2006 stabilized in 2007. 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.

Seats for researchers have become an established service in the National Library, with eight seats in a common reading room and four in separate offices, for a total of twelve seats.

#### **Organization and finances**

The new department of Scholarship and Collections was established at the beginning of 2007 in order to strengthen the National Library's effort in facilitating research and development

The Film report Veiviseren (The Pathfinder) St meld 22 2006/2007 ” proposed the transfer of archival responsibility for Norway's film heritage to the National Library from Norwegian Film Institute. This was confirmed and made more explicit in the State Budget for 2008. Accordingly, during the autumn of 2007 the National Library began preparations for the handover of employees and tasks from the Norwegian Film Institute effective from 01.01.2008.

A worker satisfaction survey was carried out and will form the basis for further development, and the management training programme which was started in 2004, has been carried on.

The National Library is financed through annual grants in the State Budget. In 2007 the institution was granted NOK 276.5 million for operations and NOK 24.8 million for investments. The income of the National Library in 2007 was NOK 9.1 million, from the sale of services, assignments, joint projects and reimbursements.

In all, over the last four years the National Library has freed and re-allocated NOK 23 million through increased efficiency and reorganization.

The National Library prioritizes its financial resources in a way that will support the strategic efforts of the operation. In 2007 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,  
archives and made accessible to users within six weeks of arrival: 97 % goal attainment

Purchases for the collection: NOK 8 375 119

Bibliographies published: 2

Digital units in the Digital Long Term Repository: 213 279

Units in the Digital Long Term Repository that have  
been made accessible to the public: 206 363

Hits and downloads at nb.no (digital distribution): 8 470 823

Loans from the collection: 153 228

Visitors to the library: 166 814

Visitors to exhibitions an events: 15 905

Exhibitions: 5

Events: 64