

Digitalisation Policies

Objectives

The National Library's vision is to be the nation's memory through constituting a multi-medial centre of knowledge with focus both on preservation and distribution. To achieve this vision, the National Library shall be a modern digital national library. This represents a new way of being a national library.

The user shall experience getting admission to a large diversity of digital content, wherever the user is, and whenever the user wishes. This entails that the National Library's digital collection is visible both in the digital national library (NBDigital) and in other popular Internet services.

The digitalisation of National Library's collection happens in line with the demands which are made in relation to long-term storage of digital content, and the National Library establishes, in collaboration with international participants, necessary standards for this. The digital objects are enriched by metadata and lasting identifiers which increase the possibilities for preservation, use and re-use over a 1000-year perspective. The National Library arranges for numerous and varied uses of the content in the collection. The content is made available in attractive formats.

The Aims Are Achieved by:

- Systematically digitalising the National Library's whole collection
- Digitalising sought-after material (on-demand)
- Entering into agreements with the publishers about receiving as much as possible in digitalised format
- Being a digital archive and secure storage place for digital material both for the National Library and for other cultural institutions
- Collaborating with strategic partners, economically and professionally.
- Giving access to the largest possible portion of the Norwegian cultural heritage
- Entering into agreements with the copyright holders about giving admission to material which is no longer under copyright
- Being visible via search engines and relevant portals
- Offering a modern digital library service on the internet

Digitalisation

The National Library carries out a systematic digitalisation of its whole collection. On the basis of the modern law 'The Legal Deposit of Generally Available Documents', everything that is published in all forms of media is handed over. In addition, the collection is expanded through strategic purchases and gifts. The National Library's digital collection represents multifarious types of content from medieval times until today.

In addition to the systematic digitalisation, consideration is paid to enquiries from external institutions to the degree these coincide with the National Library's strategic priorities.

It is important to utilise the potential which arises when turning the collection into a digital format. This offers searches both in metadata and in the content of the collection, to the extent that there is technology making this possible.

Digital Deposits

Today, virtually all publishers have a digital production of their publications. The National Library works to deposit the digital starting point for all publications directly from the publisher, together with metadata from the publisher. This way, the collection is expanded with digital content of high quality, at the same time as the physical collection is developed. Metadata directly from publisher can also increase the efficiency of the cataloguing of the material, and simplify retrieval.

Today there are also many publishers who publish in a digital format. This is covered by The Legal Deposit of Generally Available Documents and is collected by the National Library. This is done partly through direct, digital deposits from publisher, and partly through The National Library itself regularly collecting relevant material from the Internet.

Digital Preservation

Both digitalisation and digital deposits are done in such a way that the result satisfies the demand for digital preservation, and the National Library establishes necessary standards for this in collaboration with international participants. The National Library's digital security magazine safeguards the digital collection in a 1000-year perspective. Great challenges and costs are connected with establishing and running a large scale solution for digital preservation. The National Library works at all times towards a flexible and scalable solution with a high degree of security, good integrity control, sufficient capacity, and with solutions for secure migration and conversion of digital content as required. This also calls for co-workers with high competence in digital preservation, as well as the development and operation of the necessary infrastructure.

The National Library also offers services for the preservation of digital content to other cultural institutions in Norway in collaboration with the National Archives.¹

Strategic Collaboration

The National Library establishes national standards linked with digitalisation of different types of material. This prepares the National Library for entering strategic collaborations in the digitalisation work. Other participants wish to digitalise either their own publications or parts of their collections for strategic reasons. A sharing of the costs between the National Library and the publishers enables a higher pace in the digitalisation, and a clear standard for the digitalisation work means that the National Library can benefit from other institutions' digitalisation efforts.

Enter Agreements

Digital content which is no longer under copyright shall be made accessible in NBDigital to everyone. The whole digital collection shall be accessible for research and documentation on the National Library's premises. Besides, the National Library shall enter into agreements with the copyright holders about the right to give access to researchers, students and user of the National Library generally via the Internet.

Be Available Where the User Is

The National Library is present with its metadata and its digital content also in other popular Internet services. This is a way to reach the users in the environment the users themselves prefer. This is achieved through offering services which other service suppliers can easily integrate into their own services, and generally through exposing metadata and digital content for search engines and other proposers on the Internet.

¹ British: Public Record Office; USA: National Archives and Record Administration.

NBDigital – the Digital National Library

The collection-based distribution will increasingly be digital. The possibilities of space within digital distribution lies in a strong development. The National Library is continuously keeping up-to-date in order to adapt and make use of new distribution areas and methodology.

A coordinated search in Norwegian library catalogues will simplify the access to the book stock which exists in Norwegian libraries. In the same way, a coordinated search in the National Library's catalogues makes the National Library's collection more accessible.

The digital National Library shall constitute the core in a Norwegian digital library. This means that great parts of the Norwegian production of culture and knowledge since the medieval ages will gradually be available in the digital National Library. This core, combined with supplementary collections, will constitute the Norwegian digital library.