

Collection Policies

Objectives

The collection of the National Library shall comprise text-, sound- and picture-based sources of Norway's cultural and social history. These sources are distributed across the whole spectrum of media types; from paper via film to electronic media, they reflect the full breadth of genres, and they cover the period from the middle ages to the present. The National Library shall thus have the country's most complete collection of published Norwegian material within all media types. In addition, the collection shall comprise *unpublished* material of substantial cultural historical importance, and it shall contain supplementary material which increases the collection's value in relation to research and distribution. The core of the National Library's collection activities shall be the material handed over according to The Legal Deposit of Generally Available Documents.

The Aims Shall Be Achieved by:

- Receiving, registering and preserving legally deposited material
- Actively supplementing the collection with relevant purchases, gifts and deposits
- Seeking rights to distribute the collection
- Organising and registering the collections in line with the bibliographical plan, and with a continuous focus on standards, re-use, and development of methodology
- Administering the collection in line with the preservation policy and the users' wishes
- Collaborating with other relevant institutions to realise own collection policy

Legally Deposited Material

The contemporary Legal Deposit of Generally Available Documents is multi-medial. The law comprises published material across all media types and publishing channels. The National Library shall, through actively administering the law, make sure that the law's objectives are observed, and thereby that legally deposited documents are preserved and made accessible as source material for research and documentation.

Acquisitions

In addition to legally deposited material, the National Library's collections shall be expanded with new acquisitions in the form of purchases and gifts and via deposits. Gifts and deposits shall be evaluated according to the same criteria as for purchases. For types of material comprised in The Legal Deposit of Generally Available Documents, it is desirable that acquisitions are made to fill lacunae in the collections. For types of material which are *not* comprised in the law, acquisitions shall be made after an evaluation of the documents' cultural and societal importance. This is also applicable to foreign documents which comprise Norwegians or Norwegian conditions. As an additional criterion relating to acquisitions, one should use the material's relevance and potential for present and future research and distribution. Because we wish to increase the primary collection's research value, we shall build up a collection of relevant support literature in dialogue with university and research libraries. The National Library shall work actively to promote digital deposits of documents.

Safeguarding of Distribution Rights

When making acquisitions, the National Library shall seek the rights to distribute the material, this also applies to use outside the library's own premises. Expanded distribution rights, beyond what automatically are results of the legal system, will count positively in the evaluation of concrete acquisitions.

Organisation and Registration

The material which is incorporated in the National Library's collections shall be organised and registered in order to secure satisfactory retrieval and to document the national document production. The National Library's bibliographical plan outlines the fundamental criteria for bibliographical treatment of the material, and shall form the basis for the choice of description levels for the various types of material and document categories. In order to secure an effective use of resources and a constantly higher quality of the bibliographical work, the National Library shall have a continuous focus on standards, re-use and development of methodology.

Administration

The collections shall be administered in a safe way both for preservation and use. The preservation policy, digitalisation policy, distribution and research policy, present different stipulations for the administration of the collections. Where these administration concerns are in conflict, there has to be a balance in relation to the status in the collection of each single document, cf that some documents are purchased for research and distribution purposes, while preservation consideration is more important for other documents. The National Library is a central node in the network of libraries, and the Depot Library shall continue to evolve so that Norwegian libraries are secured good quality and effective interlibrary loans services.

Collaborations with Others

The National Library shall collaborate with other institutions to fulfil the objectives of its collection policies. Examples of forms of collaboration are participation in collaboration agencies, division of labour in concrete projects, and archival collaboration. Permanent and effective routines for collaboration with important document producers shall be established.