

Strategies for a Digital National Library

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The National Library of Norway has for three years now been embarking on a planned and systematic digitization of our whole collection in order to make as much content as possible available on the Net. The Norwegian Legal Deposit Act is media independent. Everything that is produced of interest to the public is to be deposited with the National Library, be it books, newspapers, periodicals, films, photographs, music or broadcasting and we harvest large parts of the Norwegian web.domain.no. To give access on the net to as much as possible of this, means a new way of performing our National Library function

To succeed with our plans we have the following

Strategies

- To systematically digitize the whole collection
- To digitize on demand
- To negotiate with the publishers to get as much material as possible deposited in digital formats
- To be a digital archive for other institutions, e.g. publishers and newspapers
- To find strategic partners to cooperate with, financially and on know-how
- To be a trusted repository for digital material in the Norwegian society
- To give access to as much as possible of our cultural heritage, e.g. through search engines
- To negotiate with the right-holders to give access to material that is not yet in the free, so that also modern books, films, and music can be searched
- to take part in developing the pedagogic on the net.

Due to new **legislations** and in **collaboration** with media institutions outside the library world – and with right-holders, we are now beginning to see some results.

Norwegian Copyright Act

The National Library has been given its own legal basis to digitize the cultural heritage, and is allowed to digitize all works in its collection. This applies both to legally deposited material and material purchased by the National Library.

Agreement with publishers concerning the deposit of literature

We have now signed an Agreement with the Norwegian Publishers Association about arrangements for digital deposit.

The purpose of the agreement is to store in a digital format copies of copyrighted material for the purposes of preservation and security, and to make such material available in digital format via the terminals in the National Library of Norway's premises.

“An Endless Tail”

The National Library of Norway and representatives for Norwegian right-holders have collaborated on a pilot project in which copyrighted Norwegian works are made available in a digital format via the internet. A report based on the statistical analysis of the behaviour of users of the online service, of library lending figures and of sales statistics during the same period, in addition to findings from an online

questionnaire shows interesting results on how and how much the users read on net. Especially it shows how older content score high – as Chris Andersen predicted in his The long Tail (2006).

Criteria for paying right-holders

As a result of this pilot project the Minister of Culture has appointed a committee with the mandate to suggest criteria for how to pay right-holders for giving access to the digital material that is not yet in the free, but in the National library's collection.