

Norway

Lars Egeland
ABM-utvikling

Introduction

In 2005 the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Church affairs of Norway, decided that ABM-utvikling should represent Norway in the National Representative Group (NRG). ABM-utvikling is playing an important role in developing national policy for digitisation.

ABM-utvikling – the Norwegian national authority for archives, library and museums was established in 2003, following the merger of the Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, the Norwegian Museum Authority, and the National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries. It is a public institution under the authority of the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, but it also works across departmental and other administrative boundaries.

The establishing of ABM-utvikling was based on an understanding by the Parliament of the important role archives, libraries and museums (ALM) play in a democracy, and in promoting social inclusion. The majority of the information sources extends across all of the ALM institutions and includes art, sound, photography, film, archival material and literature.

Furthermore, the common interests of the three constituent sectors have been strengthened by the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

ICT provides simplified access to different types of sources, also across the traditional sector boundaries.

Two of the core areas for ABM-utvikling are to advance learning and collection presentation in archives, libraries and museums and to increase online access to knowledge and culture sources. The Norwegian Digital Library initiative and Culturenet Norway are two important means to reach these goals.

ENorway 2009

The ENorway 2009-plan describes and points out the Norwegian ICT-policy. It was launched by the Ministry of Modernisation (new name from 1.1.2006: The Ministry of

Government Administration and Reform) in June 2005. The plan has three target areas:

- The individual citizen in the digital Norway
- Innovation and growth in business and industry
- A coordinated and user-adapted public sector.

The plan points out the right for everyone to digital participation, the need for the individual to get digital skills, the individual's digital right and finally the plan contains a chapter about digital access to knowledge and culture.

Here it is pointed out that «the cultural sector contains a rich range of cultural products in the form of films, museum collections, archives, radio, music and books. Even if a lot of this is already digitised and made available online over the last decade, there is still much that should be made more easily available. The basic view of the Government is that anything that is publicly financed should be available to the public. A plan will be drawn up showing what has been done thus far, as well as containing a strategy for further digital presentation of Norwegian heritage, including films, literature, museum and archive collections, specialist sources of knowledge and national archives for audio and photography. Based on copyright agreements and personal data protection regulations, schemes will be drawn up that ease access and increase the range available to the public. Large amounts of material from the archives of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) are important parts of the Norwegian heritage. It is desirable for this wealth of archive material to be made available once again, and in new ways. Basis in law has been established for the broadcaster to be able to enter into agreements with representative rights organisations in the area. This will make it possible for NRK to make its archive material available and increase access to the general public. New curricula will be introduced into primary and secondary education from the autumn of 2006.

Digitalised cultural material will be an important teaching resource. The Government will, therefore, consider how a greater part of NRK archives, the Norwegian Film Institute, the National Library, museums, archives and equivalent institutions can be used in primary and secondary education». The Government's goal is that:

- By 2007, a strategy shall be presented that prepares for schemes that provide access to heritage, including film, literature, museum and archive collections, professional literary sources of knowledge and national archives for sound and pictures. The strategy shall be drawn up on the basis of copyright agreements and personal data protection regulations.
- By 2009, schemes shall be established that ensure Internet access to cultural heritage and knowledge and experience sources for educational institutions and the general public.

The role of the National Library

The role of the National Library is to preserve and make accessible to the present and the future the information that shapes our society, regardless of how and in which medium it was published.

One of the main responsibilities of the library is the administration of the Act of Legal Deposit. The present legal provision came into force in 1990. This Act has given Norway one of the most comprehensive systems of legal deposit in the world. In accordance with this law the National Library currently receives not only books, serials, newspapers, but also microforms, photographs and electronic documents. The library is also responsible for the legal deposit of radio and television broadcasts and receives a preservation copy of sound recordings, videos and films. Both printed and audio-visual media are stored under one roof in long-term storage vaults, mined out of solid rock in the mountain.

In a strategy manifest from February 2005 the board of the library agreed upon the ambition to be a central part of a Norwegian digital library. The library has made a report on the status of the library collection referring to whether it is digitised, and the status connected to copyright. Parts of the collection are already digitised, mainly audiovisual material, broadcasting, photos and posters. New material is to a high degree delivered in a digital form (broadcasting). But only few books are

digitised. So to achieve its ambition to be one of Europe's most modern national libraries, a digitising project will now be started.

The National library launched a new Internet service this year. It gives the users access to all types of digitised information, including text, sound, pictures, movies. Searching in metadata and advanced admission control makes it easy for the user to find the material and for the library to give the user admission to the right material.

Action areas

The Norwegian Digital Library

The Norwegian Digital Library is a 5-year national initiative programme, under the aegis of the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority, which is working towards the establishment of a common digital library. Its vision is to provide easy access for all to information and knowledge. Its ambition is to coordinate existing services, as well as developing new services. In this way, the Norwegian Digital Library will make more quality-assured content available. Users will be given access to digital knowledge, culture and sources of experience, and services.

<<http://www.norskdigitalbibliotek.no>>

The Initiative's ambition and its many underlying goals are reflected in the five major focus areas:

Digitalization, Licensing, Portals, Technical Framework and User Services, and projects in all five areas have been started by different types of library institutions with funding from the Initiative.

Legal Challenges

Copyright legislation was changed in Norway in 2005 to harmonize it with the European Union's legislation. But there are still many unanswered questions, especially when it comes to giving access to digital resources. It is necessary to build a legal framework for the digital library in compliance with the new legislation, but in order to do so, issues like giving access to downloaded resources, to digitalized sources from the library's collections, Digital Rights Management, digital interlibrary loan, etc. must be settled.

The Norwegian Digital Library Initiative has given the National Library of Norway financial support for the

establishment of a national centre on libraries and copyright. The aim for this national competence centre is to help MLA-institutions in the complex matter of giving users access to electronic resources according to other existing acts, e.g. the Personal Data Act, the Legal Deposit Act, etc.

Giving Access to Cultural and Educational Resources (Tilgjengelig)

The Tilgjengelig Project is a collaborative effort between the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority/the Norwegian Digital Library Initiative, the National Library of Norway, Utdanning.no (i.e. Education.no) and the eStandard Project. The project has two main objectives: to investigate ways in which the cultural and educational sectors can collaborate on the use of standards, formats and protocols, and to develop a learning resource prototype for use by students, teachers and researchers.

A final report from this project is finished in 2006.

Electronic Content and Licensing

ABM-utvikling is working on negotiating consortia agreements for digital content, and to aid libraries in their negotiations with publishers. A Working Group on Licensing Issues, as well as a reference group with representatives from different types of libraries, was established in 2004. This working group is currently investigating new forms of consortia collaboration; both national, Nordic and international. Much of this concerns academic libraries, but there is also done work to establish national licenses to cultural digital material.

Digitisation

There is a lack in an overall national strategy for digitisation of cultural content. To overcome this ABM-utvikling established a working group in 2004. This group consists of experts from MLA-institutions and has its main focus on the use and democratic dissemination of digital materials. One of its goals is to define general selection principles and criteria that can be used when choosing Norwegian resources for digitalisation. Another goal is to see how digital material can be presented to different user groups. The Working Group has made a survey in order to find the status quo of digitisation in Norwegian MLA-institutions, and over 800 have been asked to answer questions via a Web-based questionnaire.

The results of this survey will be presented in the group's final report summer 2006, together with their ideas for digitisation policies, guidelines, etc.

The Digital Library Framework Project

The Norwegian Digital Library Initiative funded the first phase of the National Library of Norway's Digital Library Framework Project in 2004, and people with specific skills – mostly from the library community – worked together to define a technological framework for the digital library.

The project consisted of seven work packages: Metadata, Digital Document Production and Publishing, Solutions for Federated Search, Authentication and Authorization, Copyright clearance, digital rights management and payment methods, Other Services, as well as Infrastructure and System Architecture. The results from the first phase of the project will soon be made available, and hopefully libraries will build systems that follow the recommended standards, protocols and formats. The Initiative will be funding a second project phase in 2006, and archives and museums will then have a better chance to participate in this important work. The results from CALIMERA and MINERVA are guidelines in this area.

FRBR in Library Catalogues

In this project, the library vendor BIBSYS is collaborating with the National Library of Norway, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and OCLC in order to reach project goals, e.g. the recommendation of a methodology for the automatic extraction of entities, relationships and attributes, as well as the development of strategies and guidelines for implementation of systems based on the IFLA's model: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR). Experimentation for the use of FRBR in library systems, as well as in digital libraries and Web archives, is extremely important; especially as the number of electronic resources increases dramatically.

CALIMERA

43 countries, including Norway, participated in CALIMERA, a European project funded by the IST programme (2003–2005) under the motto: "anywhere, anytime, natural access to IST services for all". This follows the eEurope strategy and is fundamental to the IT strategy for Norway, eNorway 2009. Archives,

libraries, museums, national/local authorities and technology providers were involved in CALIMERA. Research topics, reports, recommendations and guidelines can be found at <<http://www.calimera.org>>. One challenge has been to encourage national/local authorities to define IT strategies for local cultural institutions and assist them in establishing a political foundation for them. ABM-utvikling participated with a national reference group: the County Archive and County Library of Sogn and Fjordane and The Heiberg Collections. Norway is now (2006) planning 1-2 pilot projects to test the guidelines for *Social Policy and Management*.

EContentPlus

The Norwegian participation in the EU-programme eContentplus is financed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. A National Contact Point has been established and the Ministry has appointed a board to support the Norwegian activity under the programme. ABM-utvikling is represented in the board, as the programme also supports EU-wide co-ordination of collections in libraries, museums and archives and the preservation of digital collections so as to ensure availability of cultural, scholarly and scientific assets for future use.

Implementation

Some main contributors for digital content in the cultural area:

Culturenet Norway (Kulturnett.no)

Kulturnett.no has been created and financed by the Ministry of Culture in order to realise national cultural policy goals, including making the benefit of Norwegian cultural resources visible. It is produced and maintained by ABM-utvikling. A totally new version based on the Topic Map standard was launched in 2004. Kulturnett.no aims to provide knowledge and experience through digital culture and digital information about cultural resources to the general public. It is a marketing body for Norwegian cultural institutions/artists and the communication of their activities.

Kulturnett.no contains of a national Web portal and 8 regional portals. It has a database of artists linking to f.i. digital versions of visual art, a base of

cultural institutions, and a knowledge base on topics in the cultural sphere in Norway in a wide meaning of the word. Culturenet do also sponsor the production of digital cultural content by other institutions.

The Documentation Project

The Documentation Project is a cooperation project between the university libraries and the university museums. It contains huge amount of archaeological and lexicographic sources. Some examples are: the Norwegian Collection of Folklore, a Collection of Folk Music), Collection of Coins and Medals, The Runes Archives, and large collections of place names and other aspects of the Norwegian language. In addition you can find Diplomatarium Norvegica which is a big full text collection of medieval letters, contracts and other documents.

The Norwegian Digital Archives

The Norwegian Digital Archives are the Norwegian National Archives' channel for publication of digitised archive material in the form of images, transcribed texts and databases.

The publication includes archive material both from electronic sources and traditional paper sources, that are either digitised from an original or a microfilm. The digitised material is processed in the National Archives (Riksarkivet), the regional state archives (statsarkivene) or in regional digitising units. Some of the material is also produced through external co-operation. The Digital Archives contains all Church books with data over when people were born and died, and a lot of other genealogy sources. This explains why they have approximately 80 mill searches a year – 20 searches for every Norwegian.

Some new projects for digitisation and increased admission to digital content:

Historical Photos and Images from Trondheim (Trondheimsbilder.no)

Trondheimsbilder.no is the official Website and portal to historic photos and images of places, people and events related to the Norwegian city of Trondheim. The project was a collaborative effort between the City Archive of Trondheim, the Trondheim Public Library, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Sverresborg Trøndelag Museum, sponsored by

Kulturnett.no. Library and museum system vendors have also been involved in this work, and today the portal allows a seamless search and retrieval in approximately 45 000 images and reference materials from these institution's databases.

<<http://www.trondheimbibliotek.no>>

Joint Library Card (Felles lånekort)

The Project Joint Library Card was initiated by a group of library vendors and the National Library. By developing a national register of library users, library patrons can now borrow media from participating libraries all over the country using just one library card. Today the card can be used mostly to lend analog material from all libraries, but the central register makes it possible to control admission also to digital material.

NORA – Norwegian Open Research Archives

Four university libraries and five college libraries are working to develop a federated search for giving users access to the academic papers found in their separate open archive systems. By using OAI-PMH and a common OAI-metadata model, these institutions hope to promote open archives in Norway.

Henrik Ibsen's Writings

In 2006 it is 100 years since the death of the author Henrik Ibsen. Of Norwegian authors, Henrik Ibsen has attained the greatest international dissemination. His works are performed on stages worldwide, read in numerous translations, studied and researched on every continent of the world. To this anniversary it will be published a new historical-critical edition, with commentary, of Henrik Ibsen's writings, printed and unprinted. The edition will be published both electronically and in book form. The book edition will consist of 30 volumes: fifteen volumes of text and fifteen volumes of commentaries. Henrik Ibsen's writings is to date the largest editorial project in Norway. It is financed by The Research Council of Norway in co-operation with the universities in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø, The Sør-Trøndelag University College, and The National Library of Norway. The publishing of the project's results are financially supported by The Arts Council Norway and The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM-utvikling).
<<http://www.ibsen.uio.no/his/>>

Ekofisk Industrial Heritage

The Ekofisk Industrial Heritage Website provides an insight into the development of the Ekofisk area in the Norwegian North Sea from 1962-1998.

Its main themes are the fields in this area, the platforms, the way people lived and worked there, important incidents and the influence of Ekofisk on Norwegian society.

The Website is a result of the Ekofisk Industrial Heritage documentation project, covering the first phase of oil and gas development in the Norwegian North Sea.

The Ekofisk Industrial Heritage project has involved a systematic selection of documentary source material relating to the first development stage from 1962-1998. Ekofisk is clearly a part of Norway's industrial heritage with national value. The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage has characterised the installations in the Ekofisk area as «some of the largest and most complex cultural monuments of our time». In line with the provisions of the Norwegian Cultural Heritage Act, the directorate called for the creation of a documentation project to cover Ekofisk.

The Ekofisk Industrial Heritage project has been run from 2002-04 by the Norwegian Petroleum Museum for Conoco Phillips Norge and the Ekofisk I licensees, Norpipe Oil and the licensees of the Albuskjell field. The latter also include Norske Shell. The Directorate for Cultural Heritage has been a key partner in initiating and following up the project. Work on collecting, selecting, registering and storing source material has been pursued in close collaboration with the National Library of Norway and the Stavanger department of the National Archival Services of Norway. This has accordingly been a true "ALM" project, involving cooperation between archives, libraries and museums. The Petroleum Museum has established an archival solution for preserving sources, with the emphasis on drawings, photographs, film, publications, objects, interviews and other material.

Digital databases represent the principal medium for storing these sources. So the outcome of the project can be called a digital national memory – made accessible through the Website.

<<http://www.kulturminne-ekofisk.no>>
(Norwegian and English)

