

Iceland

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A. DIGITISATION AND ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

A1. Progress on the systematic gathering of information about current and planned digitisation of books, journals, newspapers, photographs, museum objects, archival documents, audiovisual material and the availability of overviews of such digitisation in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote collaboration and synergies at European level.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture published in 2005 a policy on information technology in education, culture and science. It is a “bottom up” approach, as the responsibility for carrying out policies, strategies and activities on digitisation of the Icelandic cultural and scientific heritage is decentralised and a task for the public institutions in these fields. The Ministry plays a minor role in this progress but encourage the institutions and supports their activities by budget allocations to special projects in this field. By different coordination efforts the Ministry also tries to get a comprehensive overviews of the digitisation progress in the institutions in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote collaboration. The Ministry investigate the possibilities of establishing a national coalition for digital preservation.

A2. Progress on the development of quantitative targets for the digitisation of analogue material in archives, libraries and museums, indicating the expected increase in digitised material which could form part of the European Digital Library and the budgets allocated by public authorities.

In the Ministry's policy on information technology in education, culture and science there are no quantitative targets but the institutions propose different targets in their yearly budget plans and in results-based agreements between the Ministry and the institutions.

A3. Progress on partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector in order to create new ways of funding digitisation of cultural material.

Most of the museums in Iceland, run by the government, have sponsorship agreements with companies in the private sector and most of them have some kind of provisions on the digitisation of the museums material, also in combination with public access to it.

A4. Progress on the set-up and sustaining of large scale digitisation facilities.

There are at the moment no plans, on behalf of the Ministry, on such central facilities.

A5. Progress of cultural institutions, as well as publishers and other right holders to make their digitised material searchable through the European Digital Library. Describe in particular the progress on the application of common digitisation criteria by cultural institutions and, where relevant, private companies, in order to achieve interoperability with the European Digital Library and to facilitate cross-language search ability.

The National and University library of Iceland is a full member of The European Library (TEL) and participated in the EDL project (already completed on February 29, 2008). Through that project there is now access to GEGNIR the Icelandic National Bibliographic database, and timarit.is a collection of newspapers and journals from Iceland, Greenland and the Faeroe Islands. The National Library also participates in the TELplus, ENRICH and the Europeana projects and expects to make a large number of digital objects available through TEL in those projects.

A6a. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of orphan works.

No formal action has been taken.

A6b. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of works that are out of print or out of distribution.

The Consortium of Icelandic Libraries runs a union digitised catalogue for all Icelandic libraries and gives information about the location of all works that are out of print or out of distributions. Special efforts have been made to scan some old prints, newspapers, magazines and manuscripts and make them accessible on the Internet.

A6c. Progress on the availability of lists of known orphan works and works in the public domain.

No formal action has been taken.

A6d. Progress on the identification of barriers in your legislation to the online accessibility and subsequent use of cultural material that is in the public domain – and the steps taken to remove them.

No formal action has been taken but the Ministry along with some stakeholders are investigating if there are any barriers and subsequently if there are needs for changes in the acts concerned.

B. DIGITAL PRESERVATION

B1. Progress on national strategies for the long-term preservation of and access to digital material. Describe the organisational approach, indicating the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved as well as the allocated resources. Describe the specific action plans outlining the objectives and a time-table for the specific targets to be met.

The comprehensive national strategy on information technology was first published by the Government of Iceland in 1996 and has been updated regularly. The policy on information technology in education, culture and science, mentioned in No. 1, is a part of that strategy. The strategy doesn't consist of quantitative targets or goals but general objectives, also the long-term preservation of and access to digital material. But as already mentioned the responsibility for carrying out policies, strategies and activities on digitisation of the Icelandic cultural and scientific heritage is decentralised and a task for the public institutions in these fields.

In the yearly national budget are resources allocated to this matter which goes to different projects proposed

by the steering committee for the "Icelandic Information Society Strategy". Organisations and governmental institutions can apply for grants for particular projects and some of the projects on the digitisation of cultural material have been financed this way.

On behalf of the Ministry there are no specific action plans outlining the objectives and a time-table for the specific targets to be met, but some institutions have.

B2. Progress on exchange of information with other Member States on your strategies and action plans.

No formal action has been taken.

B3. Progress on legal provisions for multiple copying and migration of digital cultural material by public institutions for preservation purposes.

The Icelandic copyright legislation contains a provision which grants cultural heritage institutions permission to make copies for instance by digitisation for preservation purposes.

B4. Progress on policies and procedures for the deposit of born-digital material. Please note how you are taking into account developments in other Member States in order to prevent a wide divergence in depositing arrangements.

The policy and procedure in Iceland for the deposit of born-digital material is in line with the other Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The current Act on legal deposit is from the year 2002 and in the preparation for the proposal, acts on legal deposit in other Nordic countries and the latest development, in this field in Europe, was taken into account.

The main content in the Act is as follows.

Three copies of a work that is published on electronic media like a CD, diskette or equivalent shall be delivered and the publisher is responsible for the legal deposit.

The legal deposit as defined in article 1 of the law does not apply to a computer program unless it is published as a part of another work to which the legal deposit applies.

The National Library will receive works delivered according to this article and supervise delivery according to rules that has been specified in a directive. The publisher of a work available via a public computer

network ("Internet") shall provide the legal deposit library with access to the work. He shall provide the library with a password or other information that is necessary for the library to access the work. The legal deposit obligation is considered fulfilled if it is possible for the receiving library to obtain a copy of the work.

B5. Progress on legal provisions for the preservation of web-content by mandated institutions.

In October 2004 the National and University Library of Iceland started to collect, preserve and make

available Icelandic documents published on the Internet. Their collection contains today about 350 million of unique web documents from websites, mainly with the suffixes .is.

The .is domain is harvested 3 times a year and certain websites every week.

If an event is important there is a special harvest of websites pertaining to the event.

This material is currently not accessible by public but according to plans there will be open access in late 2008.

