

Norway

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The Norwegian Government implemented the Commission Recommendation on Digitisation and Online Accessibility of Cultural Material and Digital Preservation on 1 February 2008. This report is therefore based on our work in this field previous to the implementation of the Commission Recommendation.

The Norwegian Government is at present preparing a White Paper on access to sources of knowledge and culture by means of digital ICT. The main focus of the paper is to articulate a strategy for coordinated conservation and access to collections in Norwegian archives, libraries and museums by means of digital ICT. It will cover both national, regional and local institutions. The aim is to create digital access to cultural material through innovative use of ICT in user interface based on universal design. An important subject in this regard will be whether or not to have general access or access differentiated depending on user roles (researcher, journalists, students, pupils, general public). Some key considerations are how this should be treated with reference to costs depending on degree of dissemination, criteria for selecting material for digitisation and remuneration to rights holders. The White Paper will also discuss legal aspects pertaining to copyright, cooperation on standards of digitisation, preservation and accessibility across sector borders.

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.

There is at present no systematic gathering of information on digitisation activities in Norway.

The right to digitise for preservation purposes is administered by sector specific organisations. This helps avoiding duplication.

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.

The most significant effort as regards progress on the development of quantitative targets for the digitisation of analogue material in Norway is done by the National Library. The National Library has made a strategic decision to digitise its entire collection, ranging from manuscripts and incunables to film and AV-media, for preservation purposes. This will give them the possibility to disseminate the collection online through agreement with rights holders' organisations. The project has a time frame of 12 to 15 years, depending on adequate funding.

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

Possible partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector are pending the development of a digitisation strategy in the expected White Paper.

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

As regards the set-up and sustaining of large scale digitisation facilities, the National Library utilizes equipment for large scale digitization, in order to digitize their entire collection.

A5. Progress of cultural institutions, as well as publishers and other rightholders 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 searchability.

Digitalarkivet (the Digital Archives) is 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 our digitising units. Some of the material is also produced through external co-operation. The National Library is a dedicated member of the EDL and its projects, including Europeana.

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

The use of orphan works is not a major problem in Norway, due to the arrangement with agreed licences. An agreed licence is based on a provision in the Norwegian Copyright Act which gives intellectual property right holder organisations the authority to collect payment from users on behalf of their members.

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

Right holders have agreed on the possibility of republishing works that are out of print or out of distribution on the basis of digital preservation copies made at the National Library, and pilots have established this as a proven concept.

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

Orphan works are covered by licensing agreements between rights holders' organisations and the National Library; works in public domain are maintained at the library as part of the dissemination strategy.

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.

The question of online accessibility and use of cultural material in the public domain is also covered

by the White Paper on access to sources of knowledge and culture by means of digital ICT to be presented to Stortinget by the end of 2008.

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 Norwegian Government is at present preparing a White Paper on access to sources of knowledge and culture by means of digital ICT. A national strategy is therefore under construction and will be part of the White Paper to be presented to Stortinget during by the end of 2008.

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

There were informal meetings with Denmark on strategies for digitisation of cultural heritage in January 2008. Norway of course also takes part in the discussion undertaken in EFTAs Working Group on Culture. Also, the National Library partakes in EDL.

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

Changes have been made in the regulations to the Norwegian Copyright Act, which makes it possible for the National Library to digitise for preservation causes.

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 National Library in Norway collects newspapers as files with permission to disseminate these as a substitution for microfilm subscriptions held by local libraries. The Norwegian Government follows the development in the EU, aiming to prevent a wide divergence in depositing arrangements.

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

The Norwegian Legal Deposit Act covers web-content, and the preservation of the Norwegian web-culture is part of the National Library's mandate.

