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.

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
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.