

The Ministry of Culture  
The Ministry of Education and Research

Strategy

# A space for democracy and self-cultivation

National strategy for libraries 2020–2023

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## Libraries, public enlightenment and self-cultivation

Libraries are houses of democracy: from the National Library of Norway to public libraries, school libraries, special libraries and research libraries. Together, they constitute an important part of the democratic infrastructure and are one of the cornerstones of democracy. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Research are therefore joining forces to present the new national strategy for libraries.

Throughout Norway, libraries are successfully serving the nation as relevant cultural arenas, learning arenas and meeting places. The libraries are, and should be, open, inclusive and accessible places for recreation, debate, knowledge and enlightenment. What was relevant yesterday will not necessarily be relevant tomorrow. Democracy cannot be taken for granted. The national strategy for libraries must therefore empower libraries to act as knowledge arenas, where users can access quality-assured information and research.

In the four years since the last national strategy for libraries was published, visitor numbers at public libraries in Norway have increased considerably. A survey conducted in 2018 showed that as much as 54 per cent of the population had visited a library during the preceding year. This is the highest figure since records began. Much of the increase is a result of the focus on libraries as an arena for debate, dissemination and cultural experiences in the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*. Measures were implemented that saw the reversal of a long-standing negative trend. However, we should be proud, but never satisfied. The fact that 54 per cent of the population visited a library in 2018 means that almost half did not.

Public enlightenment relates to the library's role as an arena for knowledge, where the public can access research and sources, and the library can facilitate the development of critical thinking and digital judgment in the population. Ever since the first public book collections were established in Norway almost 200 years ago, the library has served as an institution for self-cultivation. Library staff have worked to ensure that the public can read and access knowledge and culture. The role of disseminator and provider of access to book collections and research is just as relevant today, and can be strengthened by expanding the cooperation between public libraries and libraries in the university and university college sector.

Modern libraries shall be relevant institutions in local communities, schools and other learning arenas. They offer a haven with access to knowledge and culture. As a meeting place, libraries play a key role in integration and training, and as a service institution in the municipality. Local authorities that develop good and accessible libraries promote democracy and create a sense of community.

The population's interest in literature and reading is historically strong, but is constantly being challenged by other forms of entertainment and new platforms. This does not diminish the importance of libraries; literature, reading and access to knowledge are just as important in today's society. Access to knowledge is essential for participating in society and helps counteract inequalities among the population.

Applying this strategy will enable the government to develop the libraries as visible institutions in municipalities, schools and learning institutions. The goal is for libraries to introduce new users to literature and reading, facilitate knowledge dissemination and expand digital collections. The government will implement strategic measures that support libraries and librarians in attracting more users, including those who do not visit libraries.

In recent decades, the framework conditions in the cultural and knowledge sector have changed considerably. Music, film, newspapers and much of our acquisition of knowledge have been digitalized. Knowledge and culture that were previously only accessible by visiting large institutions, cinemas, universities or libraries can now be accessed at home on computers, tablets and mobile phones. Anyone can now carry out online searches in large knowledge bases that were previously

only available to a select few researchers. Knowledge and culture are more accessible than ever before. However, just because we are able to access an almost infinite amount of knowledge does not mean that we seek it out or use it. On the contrary, online knowledge and information are actually competing with – and often losing out to – ‘fake news’, rumours and propaganda. The government wants libraries to serve as a counterforce to this.

We need libraries that are relevant. In order to achieve this, we need to join forces and ensure that our libraries are moving in the same direction and successfully attracting new user groups. We are pleased to present this national strategy for libraries, which seeks to help libraries serve as inclusive cultural arenas, today and in the future. Libraries should be a base for both knowledge and cultural experiences; accessible to all.

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## PART I – BACKGROUND

### 1 The government's library policy

Report to the Storting No. 8 (2018–2019), *Kulturens kraft – Kulturpolitikk for framtida* (The Power of Culture – Cultural Policy for the Future) sets out the overarching political direction for the cultural policy. The white paper describes priorities and presents new national cultural policy goals. The main message is that art and culture are expressions that build society, and that a rich and varied cultural life is crucial to freedom of expression and a well-functioning democracy. Libraries are part of the core infrastructure in society that is needed to achieve several of the cultural policy goals set out in the white paper. A focus on libraries is particularly relevant to facilitating a free and independent cultural life that:

- fosters self-cultivation and critical reflection,
- safeguards and disseminates cultural heritage,
- is accessible to all and encourages the individual to experience and participate in cultural activities,
- provides meeting places and brings people together,
- is innovative and adaptable, and
- strengthens the Norwegian language, the Sami languages, the national minority languages and Norwegian sign language as fundamental bearers of culture.

The white paper states: 'A democratic society with an open and enlightened public discourse is based on people having knowledge about and an understanding of the society they are part of. Today's information society makes great demands on people, asking them to develop critical reasoning and expand their horizon of understanding in order to be able to evaluate sources, examine what is true and false, and make independent decisions.'

On this basis, the government presents the *National strategy for libraries 2020–2023*, with reference to the central government's responsibilities and tasks for the development of a future-oriented library sector, where public libraries, school libraries and university and university college libraries are viewed in conjunction with each other. The aim is to further develop the libraries as relevant and important institutions in the future, in a way that will contribute to public enlightenment and self-cultivation.

The strategy builds on the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018* and details the government's library policy for the period 2020–2023. The Granavold political platform stipulates the following in relation to libraries: 'The government will invest in public and school libraries, partly by strengthening the work on digital platforms and new models for operating libraries' and further that 'The government will strengthen the national reading projects'. In order to improve cooperation and foster opportunities for the further development of libraries in a broader sense, it is appropriate to include libraries in higher education in the national strategy for libraries.

Public and school libraries are owned by the local authorities, while most special libraries and research libraries are owned by universities and university colleges. The bulk of the development work must be driven by the library owners themselves, but the central government shall facilitate cooperation in a national library system, good framework conditions and the scope for testing new services and operating models. The strategy specifies what measures the central government will take to stimulate this development. We have received a range of proposals and input regarding specific measures that the central government can take to help strengthen the libraries. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Research have considered the proposals, and set out clearly in the *National strategy for libraries 2020–2023* what responsibilities and tasks the central government will assume vis-à-vis the libraries. The Ministries also describe how, through the National Library of Norway, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training, education institutions and UNIT (Norwegian Directorate for ICT and Joint Services in Higher Education and Research), the central government can best facilitate and contribute to innovation, capacity building and development throughout the library sector. This applies both to the development and operation of shared services and to the allocation of project and development funding. To this end, the National Library of Norway administers NOK 48.5

million in lottery funding for cultural purposes. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training administers NOK 18 million from the national budget. Other measures presented in the strategy document can be implemented within the current budgetary framework.

The focus on libraries is important for achieving the government's goals in several areas. These are discussed in several white papers and in white papers and strategy documents in progress. Parallel to the *National strategy for libraries 2020–2023*, a computer game strategy is presented, in which the libraries are highlighted as pivotal to the dissemination and diffusion of Norwegian computer games. In Report to the Storting No. 10 (2018–2019), *Frivilligheita – sterk, sjølvstendig, mangfaldig* (Volunteering – strong, independent, diverse), the cooperation with libraries and access to libraries' open and independent premises are described as part of the foundation for an active voluntary sector in the local community. Targeting children and young people is particularly important for this government, and the library strategy should therefore be viewed in conjunction with the work on a new white paper on culture for children and young people. The government has also presented a strategy for equal rights for people with disabilities for the period 2020–2030, which provides guidance on how public services should be coordinated and developed. This will also apply to the library service. A focus on libraries could also help to achieve goals in the Granavold platform's chapter on knowledge, in relation to early intervention, language training and quality in education. Libraries could also be key to realizing the curricular reform in primary and lower secondary schools.

The library strategy should also be viewed in the context of the government's strategy for the digitalization of the public sector, which highlights the libraries' role in boosting the population's digital skills. The National Library of Norway and the Norwegian Library Association participated in *Digidel 2017*, a national programme to strengthen the population's digital participation and skills. The programme highlighted the public libraries' role and efforts in providing guidance and training in basic digital skills to those lacking know-how in this area. As a competence and resource centre, the National Library will continue to be a key player in achieving these goals, together with the county libraries.

The government's higher education and research policy sets out the overarching guidelines for libraries in higher education. Of particular relevance are: Report to the Storting No. 4 (2018–2019), *Langtidsplan for forskning og høyere utdanning 2019–2028* (Long-term Plan for Research and Higher Education), Report to the Storting No. 16 (2016–2017), *Kultur for kvalitet i høyere utdanning* (Quality Culture in Higher Education) and Report to the Storting No. 25 (2016–2017), *Humaniora i Norge* (The Humanities in Norway). In 2017, the Ministry of Education and Research presented the *Digitalisation Strategy for the Higher Education Sector 2017–2021*, the *National Strategy on Access to and Sharing of Research Data* and the *National Goals and Guidelines for Open Access to Research Articles*. These are followed up through various measures in the libraries strategy that are also pertinent to libraries in higher education.

## **FACTS: THE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

In autumn 2015, the UN member states adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030, which Norway also endorsed. As an integrated model for environmental, economic and social sustainability, the SDG strategy reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development: climate and the environment, the economy and social conditions. The library sector took part in the negotiations on the UN's SDGs through the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The work of libraries is visible in all the goals, particularly in relation to public access to information, access to technology and lifelong learning.

In the document *Nasjonale forventninger til regional og kommunal planlegging 2019–2023* (National Expectations for Regional and Municipal Planning 2019–2023), the government emphasizes the SDGs' role as a political mainstay and an important part of the basis for social and land planning in Norway.

The 17 goals and 169 targets cover different sectors and groups in which libraries are important contributors to many of the goals. Libraries represent the intersection between culture, education and lifelong learning, public health and social work. This provides a good starting point for actively working

on the SDGs. With 24 million visitors in public libraries alone, libraries have a unique opportunity to inform the public of the sustainable development agenda for 2030.

The libraries are based on the concepts of public enlightenment and a sharing economy. Library staff develop their own knowledge of SDGs in addition to physical media collections and digital resources on their themes. This ensures that citizens have access to relevant information.

Through their dissemination of collections, various events and services, libraries can also help enable citizens to live their lives in a sustainable way and to contribute to the sustainable development of society. In addition, all public libraries should prepare climate accounts and implement emission reduction measures. The libraries should be profiled as sustainable organizations in their choice of solutions for waste management, disposable plastics and climate-efficient building solutions, etc.

## 1.1 National strategy for libraries 2015–2018

The *National strategy for libraries 2020–2023* builds on the steps taken in the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*. A core aim of the previous strategy was to strengthen the public libraries as an independent meeting place and digital arena. To ensure effective practical implementation of the strategy, a strategic council was established, with which the National Library of Norway had an ongoing dialogue during the strategy period.

In the previous strategy period, the National Library's project and development funding, totalling NOK 48.5 million for the year, was allocated to three priority areas: 1) shared infrastructure, 2) measures for the development of public libraries as arenas for debate and learning, meeting places and dissemination institutions, and 3) free, innovative projects. In order to optimise the effect of the initiative, the National Library's role as a competence and resource centre was clarified and tools were established for the coordination and further use of services developed with project funding. The National Library has worked to increase access to digital content, both in the negotiation of rights related to its own collections, and by adopting an overarching role to support public libraries' own e-book procurements. The National Library has also used considerable resources on developing and operating a shared infrastructure. The National Library's ongoing development of *Biblioteksøk* (Library Search) and free access to bibliographic data are important aspects of this work.

The evaluation of the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*<sup>1</sup> shows the libraries' experiences with the development funding and the effects of the funding on the development of libraries. The evaluation shows that the libraries believe that the three-way distribution of development funding helped target and clarify the work. The libraries considered the arena funding – which was to help libraries develop as independent meeting places and arenas for debate – to be vital to the implementation of the strategy. The libraries also found that the funding was easy to apply for, easy to report and yielded results quickly.

The experiences from the previous strategy period show both the importance of clear communication for development funding and the benefits of dividing the funding into categories, where application criteria and follow-up were adapted to the size of the libraries.

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<sup>1</sup> Report evaluation of the national strategy for libraries, Advicia AS, 18 January 2019

## 2 Summary and list of measures

The goal for the 2020–2023 strategy is to further develop the libraries as relevant and important knowledge institutions that will contribute to public enlightenment and self-cultivation in the population. The government presents specific measures in three key areas, which in combination will help to achieve the overarching goal:

- Dissemination
- Cooperation and development
- Infrastructure

In order to strengthen the libraries' dissemination of their diverse collections and quality-assured sources, the National Library will announce project and development funding for dissemination projects. This is primarily aimed at public and county libraries.

Furthermore, the National Library will announce funding to strengthen cooperation between the libraries and for innovative development projects. This will help to increase access to the collections and improve resource utilization between the different types of libraries.

The National Library will improve the basis for dissemination through various infrastructure measures and the development of new forms of operation and cooperation in the libraries. However, it is the libraries themselves, and the public libraries in particular, that will shape the various measures receiving support. The National Library's responsibility for shared services, as part of the national infrastructure, is being expanded. The goal is to free up resources in the libraries and use them for public-oriented activities.

In terms of digital content in public libraries, the National Library will aim to increase access. The National Library will further develop Library Search to give users a single point of access to physical and digital material.

In order to facilitate a formalized dialogue with the library sector, the National Library will establish a strategic council consisting of representatives from various libraries. The council will also ensure that the strategy is followed up in line with the libraries' circumstances and needs.

### **Dissemination – measures:**

- Each year, the National Library will announce funding for active dissemination, enabling public libraries and county libraries throughout Norway to draw up effective measures to boost reading and increase the borrowing of physical and digital material from the collections.
- The National Library will initiate projects related to outreach library activities with a view to attracting new user groups/readers, including in schools.
- The National Library will support measures that develop methods for digital dissemination.
- The National Library will create a website for disseminating the National Library's collections to lower secondary school pupils.
- The National Library will develop web pages for its map centre, which will also consist of content that schools can use for teaching.
- The National Library will disseminate its own events through a streaming service, and will also stream events held by other libraries following an editorial assessment.

### **Cooperation and development – measures:**

- The National Library will announce project and development funding to stimulate:
  - New areas of cooperation
  - More cooperation between public libraries and libraries in higher education in relation to dissemination
  - Trials of different models of operation and cooperation in libraries and library services, with a special focus on new counties and merged municipalities

- New forms of cooperation between school libraries and public libraries
- The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training is announcing grants for school libraries, and is extending the focus on this priority area by two years – from 2021 to 2023.
- The grants/project funding from the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and the National Library will be viewed in conjunction with each other.
- Funds are being set aside for the maintenance, updating and operation of *Språkløyper* (the National Strategy for Language, Reading and Writing) for a limited period of time.
- The responsibility for collecting statistics on school libraries will be transferred from the National Library to the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training.
- The National Library will initiate an evaluation of the impact of development funding on libraries in higher education.

### **Infrastructure – measures:**

- Throughout the strategy period, the National Library will endeavour to increase the scope of digital material that the libraries can access.
- The National Library will negotiate with Kopinor to secure an extension of the Bookshelf service agreement.
- The Norwegian Film Institute will evaluate and further develop the procurement schemes for computer games.
- The National Library will raise awareness in school libraries of the Multilingual Library's general services.
- The National Library will offer documented machine-readable access to its open access digital collection.
- Arts Council Norway will establish a pilot project for school libraries in its procurement schemes.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT and the higher education institutions to secure access to the large printed collections of foreign journals found in Norwegian higher education libraries.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT and the higher education institutions to ensure the preservation of and access to documents and metadata in UNIT's national open research archive.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT to establish a national vault of metadata, which will constitute the only authorized source of metadata for Norwegian libraries and enable the reuse of metadata both between the libraries and between the libraries and other parties.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT to ensure that the common register of authority records is implemented in the various library systems in Norway, and is expanded to include more types of authority records.
- The National Library will continue to develop the national library card.
- In cooperation with the county authorities, the National Library will hold seminars and conferences that provide knowledge and training in the use of national library services.
- The National Library will strengthen the bibliotekutvikling.no website as a professional resource for library staff.

### 3 The library landscape

The library landscape consists of different types of libraries. The libraries are organized and financed in a variety of ways, according to the administrative level: municipal, county authority and central government, and to the tasks that they are assigned in the different sectors. The common denominator is the libraries' aim to give users access to culture, information, knowledge and a good learning environment. Below is a detailed overview of the central institutions, in a landscape that is complemented by a range of specialist services, such as prison libraries, Sami library services and various special libraries and private libraries.

#### 3.1 Public libraries

All municipalities shall have a public library, see section 4 of the Norwegian Public Libraries Act. Section 1 of the Act stipulates the following:

The public libraries shall promote enlightenment, education and other cultural activities, through active dissemination and by providing free access to books and other media to everyone living in the country.

The public libraries shall be an independent meeting place and arena for public discussion and debate.

The individual library must place a strong focus on quality, versatility and relevance in its services aimed at children and adults.

The public shall be informed of the libraries' content and services.

Public libraries are part of a national library system.

The Act also stipulates that local authorities must employ a chief librarian with a professional qualification, with the exception of local authorities with a broad skills base in librarianship, i.e. libraries that meet the skills requirement and employ at least five full-time equivalents.

There are currently 422 public libraries in Norway, which together consist of 667 sections. From 2020, the total number of municipalities in Norway will be 356. The municipal reform will eventually lead to changes in the library structure. The national strategy for libraries takes future changes into account, and Part II sets out cooperation and development measures that can strengthen the public libraries during this process.

The proportion of the population using the library is measured in a national census conducted by Statistics Norway approximately every ten years, the last of which was in 2015<sup>2</sup> and formed part of the source material for the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*. The census showed that around 40 per cent of the population had visited a public library in the preceding year, which was a fall of approximately ten percentage points from the 2005 census.

In connection with the evaluation of the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*, a survey in 2018 showed that 54 per cent of the population had visited a public library in the preceding year. The share reporting to have visited a public library in the preceding three months saw particular growth during the period 2015–2018, with an increase of 14 percentage points.

#### 3.2 County authority library tasks

The county authorities are responsible for county level library tasks pursuant to section 6 of the Public Libraries Act, which states that:

The county authority shall perform regional library tasks and regional library development, including giving advice to local authorities, providing support and guidance in librarianship, and

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ssb.no/kultur-og-fritid/artikler-og-publikasjoner/undersokelse-om-bibliotekbruk-2015>

arranging meetings and courses on library-related issues.

The county authority's organization of the library service differs from county to county. While county authorities have previously been heavily involved in inter-library lending, today they play a more distinct role as a regional developer, working with skills development, coordination and development measures. The county authority provides support and guidance on libraries to the public and to school libraries in the county, and advises local authorities and library owners. Many public libraries benefit from the advice of the county authority and from being able to participate in various development and skills initiatives implemented by the county authorities. After the regional reform in 2020, there will be 11 counties in Norway.

### 3.3 School libraries

Schools and libraries have a common social mission in relation to knowledge dissemination, information literacy, reading and reading enjoyment. The school libraries must be specially adapted for the school<sup>3</sup>.

Regulations to the Norwegian Education Act stipulate that pupils must have access to a school library<sup>4</sup>. The school should have a school library unless access to a library is secured through cooperation with other libraries. Libraries that are not located on school premises should be accessible to pupils during school hours such that the library can be used actively in schooling.

### 3.4 Special libraries and research libraries

Special libraries and research libraries can be part of either a university, university college, research institute or other public or private institution.

Libraries in universities and university colleges aim to ensure that researchers and students have access to current and quality-assured sources of knowledge and help to improve quality in higher education and research. All institutions have their own libraries, but the organization, size and specialization of library services vary. The libraries in the higher education sector coordinate their interests through the library committee of the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions, and work together on joint solutions through UNIT and other special libraries and research libraries in Norway.

Library and information services in higher education are developing at a rapid pace. Many libraries are involved in the process of adapting research data for sharing and reuse. Library services help teach staff and students good data management. The libraries are also pivotal to the efforts to secure open access to research results. More and more academic journals are being made openly accessible to researchers, students and the general public.

A high standard in special libraries and research libraries is essential for students' learning. The university and university college libraries provide access to sources of knowledge that are critical to research-based education. Active learning methods require varied workplaces and information resources that supplement traditional syllabus books. Students are using online and social learning methods, mobile platforms and social network communities to a growing extent. The university and university college libraries have adapted to this trend and developed into modern learning centres.

A key objective of the policy for open research is for students to be able to transfer their good habits in reading specialist literature from their studies to working life, and to continue to stay updated and apply new knowledge after completing their education. Open access to research is an important factor in realizing the goal of lifelong learning and research, development and innovation in working life.

In addition to serving their own researchers and students, research libraries help to realize the dissemination role of universities and university colleges, which is also aimed at addressing the public's need for research and knowledge-based information. As such, the special libraries and

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<sup>3</sup> Regulations to the Norwegian Education Act, section 21-1

<sup>4</sup> Norwegian Education Act, section 9-2

research libraries form an integral part of our national knowledge system, often in a close cooperation with other libraries.

### 3.5 The National Library of Norway

The work of the National Library of Norway is governed by the Act of 9 June 1989, no. 32, relating to the legal deposit of generally available documents (the Legal Deposit Act). The National Library's social mission is to ensure the deposit and preservation of published material from all publishing platforms, and in doing so serve as an important source of knowledge about Norway and Norwegian issues. The National Library has research institute status.

By disseminating and enabling access to cultural heritage, the National Library shall be a source of research, learning and language development, and play a role in creating identity and belonging. The National Library will help to develop modern and relevant Norwegian libraries.

An important part of the National Library's tasks is the responsibility for the development and operation of shared services and infrastructure for all libraries. This applies to both physical and digital infrastructure. A well-developed infrastructure aids the development of good public library services, both by facilitating the public libraries' own development of local services and by taking over public library tasks that can be better dealt with at a national level.

The National Library shall be a national competence and resource centre for other institutions in the library and cultural sector. This role was expanded in the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*.

One of the main instruments in the development of the public libraries is project and development funding, which is administered by the National Library. The National Library shall play an active role in administering development funding to achieve the best possible effect. It can instigate large development projects, and initiate cooperation and coordination in projects that can and should be carried out in conjunction with each other.

The National Library administers the Public Libraries Act and performs central government's library tasks in accordance with the Act. The National Library also collects and publishes library statistics from the different libraries in Norway. The aim is to present current, relevant, quality-assured statistics as a factual basis for development work.

The National Library also administers an operating grant for library and literature-related measures.

### 3.6 The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille

The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (NLB) is a national administrative body under the authority of the Ministry of Culture. NLB's social mission is to help secure equality of access to literature and information for persons with disabilities that make it difficult to read printed text. NLB produces and lends adapted literature in audiobook format and braille for all age groups and study literature for students at universities, university colleges and vocational colleges. NLB's activities reduce social inequalities for a large section of the population in Norway.

At the end of 2018, NLB had approximately 64 000 registered borrowers. Digital lending, streaming and downloads to mobile phones, tablets and computers accounted for 47 per cent of all audiobook loans from NLB in 2018. At NLB, the digital lending of study literature is much more extensive than that of public library literature.

The e-books at NLB are marked text files produced to order for students with production rights, i.e. students who meet the criteria for producing adapted study literature. The files can be read using speech synthesis or a braille display device. Only students with production rights can borrow material in this format.

### 3.7 Arts Council Norway's procurement schemes for literature

The procurement schemes for literature are a central government support scheme for book publications. The scheme is administered by Arts Council Norway, which purchases new books and

distributes them to libraries. These books represent about half of the growth in public libraries, and are in addition to titles that the libraries purchase themselves from their own budgets.

As of 2019, there are five procurement schemes for literature:

- New Norwegian fiction, 773 copies of books for adults (703 books and 70 e-books) and 1550 copies of books for children and adolescents (1480 books and 70 e-books)
- Translated literature, 542 copies (502 books and 40 e-books)
- New Norwegian adult non-fiction, 773 copies (703 books and 70 e-books)
- New Norwegian children's and adolescents' non-fiction, 1550 copies (1480 books and 70 e-books)
- Comic books, 1480 copies of books for children and adolescents, and 703 copies of books for adults

Arts Council Norway made important changes to the procurement schemes in 2015. A major research project is now underway to learn how the schemes have been working since the changes; how they are administered, how they work in the literary cycle, and how they help to achieve the literary policy goals of quality and breadth in literature. The results of the project will be presented towards the end of 2019 and may be used as a basis for considering further changes in the procurement schemes.

## **FACTS: LIBRARY SERVICES IN SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS**

### ***The importance of the school library for schools' work in key areas***

The school library is a place for fostering the desire to read in all pupils and in all subjects, and should be an integral part of the school's educational activities. The school may have a varied collection of books, equipment, teaching aids and other resources, and through cooperation with the public libraries can increase the supply of books and other resources.

Active use of well-functioning school libraries can support the government's objectives related to, for example, reading, early intervention, in-depth learning, critical thinking, self-cultivation and personal growth. Using the school library can support pupils' learning in general and play a particularly important role in the school's efforts to develop pupils' reading skills and enjoyment, language skills, media and information literacy and digital judgment. The library can help pupils learn to use digital resources in creative and innovative work, and can serve as an arena in which the school builds good and inclusive communities that promote the well-being of all pupils.

### ***Curricular reform***

In autumn 2019, the Ministry of Education and Research is establishing new curricula for subjects in primary and secondary education and training. The goal is to equip students for the future to the greatest degree possible.

The curricular reform aims to better facilitate pupils' learning and development. The curricula will therefore be less extensive and will set a clearer path for the work on school subjects. The progression within the subjects will be improved and there will be better integration between the subjects. Pupils will be given a greater opportunity to understand how disciplines are inter-related and to develop the ability to think critically and reflect on what they are learning. The new national curriculum will also reinforce the values of the school.

The overarching part of the national curriculum was established in 2017, and elaborates on the values and the overall principles of the school. It sets out the remit of the school in relation to self-cultivation and education. This means that the school shall contribute to the pupils' academic and social learning.

The national curriculum defines five basic skills: reading, writing, numeracy, oral skills and digital skills. These skills represent academic competence and the necessary tools for learning and understanding the school subjects.

### ***Kindergartens and libraries – early intervention***

The early childhood years are a period of particularly intensive learning and appear to have an effect on subsequent language development. Even at the age of two, children's language proficiency levels vary considerably, and the differences increase with age. Children's vocabulary and conceptual understanding upon reaching school age are predictors of future language development and school performance.

Through work on communication, language and text, kindergartens can stimulate children's use of language in interpersonal relations and play, develop their conceptual understanding and give them access to a diverse range of texts. Books can provide fun language encounters, and reading is a core part of the kindergartens' work on language stimulation and language development. The children should have the opportunity to experience variety in the dissemination of texts and stories as a source of aesthetic experiences, knowledge, reflection and encounters with language and culture. It is also important that kindergarten owners provide the children with access to a varied selection of books.

Kindergarten owners have overall responsibility for statutory and regulatory framework compliance, see section 7 (1) of the Kindergarten Act, and thus have a legal obligation in terms of the quality of the service provision. According to the framework plan setting out the content and tasks of kindergartens, children must be given the opportunity to experience different languages, language forms and dialects through rhymes, verse, songs, literature and texts both from the past and the present day; to encounter a diverse range of fairy tales, stories, fables and forms of expression; and to experience the excitement and joy of being read to.

The library is an arena that can foster the desire to read through using language and communicating with others. Safeguarding children's access to a rich selection of books and digital resources requires

a close cooperation between the kindergartens and the public libraries.

#### **Ongoing measures:**

##### ***National Strategy for Language, Reading and Writing***

Språkløyper national strategy for language, reading and writing was initiated by the Ministry of Education and Research for the period 2016–2019. The strategy applies to kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools, which makes it unique in Norway. All kindergarten staff are included in the target group, and in schools, the strategy is aimed at teachers in all subjects.

The strategy uses three instruments to achieve the objective of improving children's language, reading and writing:

1. Free, online skills development packages for use in individual schools and kindergartens.
2. Free start-up sessions for staff in kindergartens and schools who will use the skills development packages.
3. The opportunity to become a language municipality, which, among other things, supports local development efforts.

Together with the Norwegian Centre for Writing Education and Research<sup>5</sup>, the Norwegian Reading Centre<sup>6</sup> is responsible for running *Språkløyper* and producing the academic content of the skills development packages available from the [sprakloyper.no](http://sprakloyper.no) website. Other national centres, Statped and others also contribute expertise.

##### ***National resource centre for school libraries***

School libraries and public libraries have considerable potential to improve pupils' learning. This potential is probably not fully exploited in many places. The University of Agder is a national resource centre for school libraries and offers further education in the work of school libraries. The website [uia.skolebibliotek.no](http://uia.skolebibliotek.no) contains current information on school libraries, information literacy and reading stimulation. Several schools have worked with, for example, reading and the use of school libraries, and this model may also be beneficial for other schools. The website contains information about how schools and libraries can collaborate effectively and how libraries can help achieve literature and reading goals.

##### ***Grant scheme for school libraries***

In 2018, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training introduced a grant scheme for school libraries. The funding goes towards staff resources or skills development, with the aim of facilitating reading stimulation under the auspices of the school library – or the public library where this is used as a school library. The purpose of the grant scheme is to boost efforts to stimulate reading.

The aims of the grant are to enable the school libraries:

- to serve as an arena for all pupils in all subjects to enjoy reading,
- to be used systematically in learning, and help achieve the goals of the national curriculum,
- to facilitate reading and the evaluation of printed and digital texts and multimodal texts,
- to be an integral and embedded part of the school's educational activities,
- to be an inclusive arena that caters for the different aptitudes and needs of children and adolescents, and to be innovative and forward looking

In order to receive support, the projects need to satisfy various criteria, e.g. that the local authority has a current plan to ensure that the school library is an integral part of learning, that a plan is in place to continue the work after the project is completed, and that user involvement is safeguarded.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.skrivesenteret.no/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://lesesenteret.uis.no>

## PART II – PRIORITY AREAS IN THE STRATEGY PERIOD

### 4 Dissemination

#### Measures:

- Each year, the National Library will announce funding for active dissemination, enabling public libraries and county libraries throughout Norway to draw up effective measures to boost reading and increase the borrowing of physical and digital material from the collections.
- The National Library will initiate projects related to outreach library activities with a view to attracting new user groups/readers, including in schools.
- The National Library will support measures that develop methods for digital dissemination.
- The National Library will create a website for disseminating the National Library's collections to lower secondary school pupils.
- The National Library will develop web pages for its map centre, which will also consist of content that schools can use for teaching.
- The National Library will disseminate its own events through a streaming service, and will also stream events held by other libraries following an editorial assessment.

#### 4.1 Government objectives in the priority area

The government wants libraries to be open institutions that are easily accessible to the population. During this strategy period, one of the government's goals is for libraries to develop further as institutions for public enlightenment and self-cultivation. The library shall be an arena for knowledge, where the population can access research and knowledge sources and contribute to the development of critical thinking and digital judgment. However, it is not sufficient that the research and sources are available; they must also be actively communicated and disseminated.

Public libraries' responsibilities in this respect were emphasized in the amendment to the Library Act in 2014 stipulating that public libraries should be engaged in active dissemination. During the strategy period, a focus will be placed on strengthening the libraries' and librarians' efforts to provide access to the large diversity in the libraries' collections. The National Library will therefore announce dedicated funding for dissemination. The goal is to attract new library users, get more people to read and increase lending. Public and county libraries can apply for this funding. The goal is also for public libraries to gain experience and expertise and to test new distribution methods, which in the long term can form part of the libraries' daily operations. In a long-term perspective, active dissemination of library content will help to strengthen the libraries as institutions for public enlightenment and self-cultivation, as well as attract new users.

Libraries shall help to shape a society where knowledge, culture, literature and reading are accessible to all and are used by as many people as possible. In the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018*, the main objective was to strengthen public libraries as an arena for debate and dissemination, as meeting places and cultural arenas. This has led to growth in visitor numbers and the use of libraries. However, even with record numbers in 2018, almost half of the population does not visit a public library in a typical year. The library must offer its services outside the physical library; reading activities, literature and the library itself should be available in arenas where it is possible to reach the groups that do not read or use the library's services.

In terms of the special libraries and research libraries in higher education, one of the main goals is to exploit the potential of open research through active dissemination to academics and other user groups. The library and information services in these institutions shall facilitate research and student learning at the institutions. One of the goals is for the special libraries' and research libraries' premises to be used to strengthen activities aimed at the general public (e.g. through events, exhibitions, etc.), where this is possible. An important part of the dissemination work will be to use web-based services to democratize access to research-based knowledge.

The other two priority areas during the strategy period, namely the National Library's various infrastructure measures and the development of new forms of operation and cooperation in the libraries, will also contribute to improved dissemination. The three priority areas combined will underpin the same overarching goal of attracting new users. Library Search is the National Library's common digital search portal for the collections in Norwegian libraries. The public can use Library Search to find and order material in the public libraries' and special libraries' collections. The National Library wants this service to be further developed into an even better tool for disseminating the libraries' content.

#### **FACTS: OTHER GRANT SCHEMES FOR DISSEMINATION MEASURES**

##### **Arts Council Norway's grant scheme for literature dissemination**

The grant scheme for literature dissemination shall contribute to the distribution of a wide range of literature, primarily in Norwegian or Sami, to the general public. Authors, translators, critics, literary festivals, libraries, schools and other organizers and disseminators can apply for grants through the scheme. Support is provided for the written, oral, live, audio-visual and digital dissemination of literature to a general audience, for example through individual events, series of events, cultural tours, literature festivals, seminars, conferences, publications (specialist material on literature), documentaries, websites and other types of measures. The dissemination must take place in Norway or be aimed at a Norwegian audience.

<https://www.kulturradet.no/stotteordning/-/vis/litteraturformidling>

##### **Norwegian Film Institute's support scheme for the dissemination of film**

The Norwegian Film Institute awards grants for film events aimed at a general audience. The scheme is for organizers of: film distribution measures for cultural or educational purposes, such as

- showing films in a cultural, artistic, historical, societal or local context,
- seminars or presentations (introductions or lectures) related to film,
- events with a focus on short films and documentaries, and
- small-scale film festivals seeking grants of less than NOK 100 000

In line with the government's computer game strategy for 2020–2022, the Norwegian Film Institute intends to expand the scheme to include the dissemination of computer games.

<https://www.nfi.no/sok-tilskudd/filmformidling/filmkulturelle-tiltak>

## **4.2 Dissemination at public libraries**

The National Library will announce annual project funding specifically aimed at supporting various measures that help strengthen libraries in their role of disseminator. In principle, it is the libraries themselves that have to devise the various measures. In order to foster creativity and good ideas for projects in public libraries, the threshold for receiving support will be low, and the application and reporting procedures will be straightforward. The transfer of experience and inspiration are important in the context of library development. Many good and creative projects have been carried out to attract new users across the country, both in connection with *Bokåret 2019* (the year of the book initiative) and previous years. The population has encountered the library on beaches, festivals, scout camps, workplaces, town squares and in the mountains. A project bank was set up at the National Library to give libraries the opportunity to take inspiration and gain experience from other libraries' projects. Measures that take the library and collections out of the physical library to new groups will be given a special priority. The activities may include adaptation and dissemination to children and adolescents, outreach library services, digital distribution and access to digital content. Joining forces with voluntary organizations, the sports world and working life, or inter-library cooperation is pivotal to this work. New forms of mobile 'micro-library services' involving skilled disseminators and the digital provision of lending or materials can apply for support. The county libraries and city libraries will play a key role in developing methods for sharing resources, disseminators and dissemination methods, with a view to improving the quality of the service. School libraries are an important arena for this form of communication, and the cooperation between schools and public libraries can be strengthened by developing public libraries' services vis-à-vis the school libraries.

One of the government's goals is to maximise participation in the extensive activity that takes place in libraries throughout the country. The National Library will facilitate a common platform for streaming various events following an editorial assessment. The National Library will also actively disseminate its own collections and events on the same platform. A greater focus will be placed on school children in these efforts. Quality-assured online services will be developed that can be used in teaching, particularly in lower secondary schools. The online service shall use themes taken from curricula and select and categorize relevant sources. A corresponding service will be developed for the dissemination of material in the National Library's map centre. The map centre opened in September 2019 and consists of atlases and loose map sheets; in total several thousand maps divided into approximately one thousand units. Online services will be developed for dissemination and individual plans that schools can use in their teaching.

NLB's audiobooks and adapted literature shall be part of the dissemination aimed at children, adolescents and adults who have the right to access this material. The National Library shall help ensure that libraries and disseminators are familiar with and use NLB's services in their meeting with all eligible users, and especially in relation to school children. It is also important that higher education libraries are familiar with and offer NLB's services to students in the target group.

## **EXAMPLE: DISSEMINATION**

### **Bokåret 2019**

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Norway's oldest book and in connection with Norway's role as the guest of honour at the book fair in Frankfurt, the Ministry of Culture commissioned the National Library to distribute NOK 30 million to libraries and other institutions that will focus on reading enjoyment in the year of the book initiative *Bokåret 2019*. NOK 15 million has gone to various events and initiatives in public and county libraries, and NOK 12 million has been awarded to reading organizations, literary institutions and others wishing to mark *Bokåret 2019*.

<https://www.nb.no/bokaret-2019/>

### **Public health and the library**

In the project on public health, Lenvik Public Library has joined forces with various partners to raise the public's awareness of good websites for health information. Information literacy is about being able to search for information, and then evaluate and use the information found. The project has resulted in a collection of articles on information literacy, which is available at

<https://www.lenvikbibliotek.no/laer-mer-om-kildekritikk-og-informasjonskompetanse/>

### **Bookstart – language from the first moment, Association Read!**

The Bookstart project is aimed at young children (0–3 years) and their parents. Through the distribution of free books and information on language development to parents in cooperation with child health centres and libraries, the aim is to strengthen the parents' role in children's language and identity development and promote a desire to read and potentially improve literacy standards in the future. Working with child health centres provides access to all parents with young children and ensures that poor families and children who do not attend kindergarten are also included.

<http://www.bokstart.no>

### **Lesefrø, Deichman**

The *Lesefrø* (reading seed) initiative focuses on the correlation between language stimulation and reading activities in kindergartens as well as in kindergartens with a high proportion of multilingual children. The goal is to drive language stimulation and dissemination of literature, contribute to the enjoyment of reading and to a good language environment in kindergartens and children's home environments. Since 2018, Deichman has been further developing *Lesefrø* in collaboration with over 100 kindergartens in Oslo, where book collections are loaned out to kindergartens, which in turn form their own libraries.

<https://blogg.deichman.no/litteratur/2018/04/09/les-for-de-aller-minste/>

### **Sommerles – Norway's digital reading campaign, county libraries and public libraries**

*Sommerles* (summer reading) is the libraries' national reading campaign whose goal is to enhance the reading skills of primary school pupils during the summer holiday. *Sommerles* was initiated in Vestfold

in 2012, and elements of 'gamification' were eventually introduced in the traditional paper-based reading campaign in order to boost the pupils' motivation for reading.

<https://sommerles.no/?hjem&lang=nb>

#### **Digital kveld, Stormen Public Library**

*Digital kveld* (digital evening) events at Stormen Public Library are specially aimed at children and adolescents. Many adolescents do not have access to digital equipment at home. This can lead to a lack of digital expertise. Stormen Public Library therefore holds its own gamer evenings for children and adolescents. Adolescents with gaming skills are employed at these evenings on a part-time basis.

### **4.3 Dissemination at special libraries and research libraries**

In addition to serving researchers and students, the special libraries and research libraries help enable universities and university colleges to carry out their statutory dissemination tasks in relation to the public. A prerequisite for research-based knowledge benefitting society is that it is accessible and used, including outside the sphere of academia. The special libraries and research libraries must be open and outward looking – whether for private individuals with their own interests, employees who want to enhance their skills, teachers who are holding theme days or companies that need access to up-to-date knowledge in the field in relation to ongoing projects.

The dissemination tasks of the special libraries and research libraries are changing. On the one hand, research has become more specialized, with terminology that can be difficult to access. In addition, new publishing platforms and channels are emerging that can be difficult to navigate. This requires better facilitation on the part of the libraries. On the other hand, the introduction of new technology, new media and innovative architectural solutions means that the number of tools at the disposal of special libraries and research libraries has increased considerably. Open access to research publications that were previously subject to a paywall also affords a wealth of new opportunities in the dissemination work.

One of the goals for the years ahead is for special libraries and research libraries to make use of the new opportunities and tools to extend their reach in society. These libraries shall serve as 'knowledge centres' for the entire population.

#### **EXAMPLE: THE SCIENCE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF OSLO**

In 2012, the Science Library at the University of Oslo (UiO) was established as Norway's largest scientific research library. The intention was also to create:

1. a qualitatively good, unifying and safe learning environment for students in technology and science disciplines,
2. an attractive academic and social meeting place for students, staff, alumni and other interested parties, and
3. a dissemination programme that is accessible to the public, with a focus on the importance of science subjects to the development of society.

The dissemination programme is run by the library and is based on both its own initiatives and its cooperation with UiO's research groups and visiting guest researchers. The strategic plans and priorities of UiO and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences guide the efforts, and the library works closely with the Faculty's communication group.

The library wants to attract those who are not regular users, and is experimenting with surprising and innovative formats, such as research dissemination based on cakes (Nerdy Science Cake Competition) and science librarians going into the field with researchers and documenting their activity. All categories of library staff help to host events and the library has expertise in scenography, graphic design and sound/light/images in addition to subject coordinators in key disciplines in the Faculty. Working with student associations and student employees fosters innovative thinking in the library and enables new ideas to be tested. The students also lend a hand with general tasks and serving refreshments. The library is in regular contact with various disseminators, including NRK broadcasting company, the organizers of Science Week (*Forskningsdagene*) and publishers.

## 5 Cooperation and development

### Measures:

- The National Library will announce project and development funding to stimulate:
  - New areas of cooperation
  - More cooperation between public libraries and libraries in higher education in relation to dissemination
  - Trials of different models of operation and cooperation in libraries and library services, with a special focus on new counties and merged municipalities
  - New forms of cooperation between school libraries and public libraries
- The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training is announcing grants for school libraries, and is extending the focus on this priority area by two years – from 2021 to 2023.
- The grants/project funding from the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and the National Library will be viewed in conjunction with each other.
- Funds are being set aside for the maintenance, updating and operation of *Språkløyper* (the National Strategy for Language, Reading and Writing) for a limited period of time.
- The responsibility for collecting statistics on school libraries will be transferred from the National Library to the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training.
- The National Library will initiate an evaluation of the impact of development funding on libraries in higher education.

### 5.1 Government objectives in the priority area

The government's vision is for libraries to develop in the direction of providing more open access to collections, knowledge and research. Closer interaction between the different types of library is pivotal to this work. The National Library shall contribute to the development of libraries and effective forms of cooperation. This can be done through various measures that the National Library itself implements, and through project and development funding for public and county libraries and libraries in higher education.

Greater cooperation provides a basis for better utilization of resources across institutions. Cooperation between institutions in relation to operations, services or projects usually means that resources can be freed up for other needs. This will often entail not only the sharing of expertise, but also sharing knowledge and learning, both consciously and subconsciously. This applies both to cooperation between libraries and library types, and perhaps to an even greater extent between libraries and other actors in society. Cooperation in one area can also be the catalyst for cooperation in other areas. Cooperation can also help make libraries more accessible. Operational cooperation and project collaboration can lead to the creation of new library access points and bring them to the attention of new user groups.

Many libraries find that cooperation within the framework of a development project has a ripple effect far beyond the project period. The smaller libraries have had positive experiences with larger collaborative projects driven by the county libraries, initiatives that have been unifying and which have helped to build networks and ensure that resources are shared. These libraries can often perceive the requirement for innovation and project management as a barrier to applying for development funding.

The government wants libraries to offer greater availability and accessibility. The National Library supported three local trials with longer opening hours in Spydeberg, Tjøme and Vegårshei in 2013, with a view to testing out this self-service provision. The projects proved to be successful, and the experience gained from this inspired several libraries to introduce self-service opening hours. In 2018, 132 municipalities extended the availability of their libraries. Nearly 2 million users visited the library when no library staff were in attendance.

### 5.2 Development projects

The National Library has project funds at its disposal to stimulate development in public libraries and special libraries in Norway. The funding is to help develop the library sector, to create value that

extends beyond the individual library, and to stimulate creativity and new approaches to library development. The libraries can secure such funding when extra efforts are needed to develop new services or test out new forms of cooperation and organization. The development funding allows libraries to test ideas that would not otherwise see the light of day. Development projects should therefore contain innovative elements, a forward-looking perspective, practical applicability and breadth. No requirements are set for the project's results, but the work in the project and the expertise acquired through the project must be shared with the entire library sector.

During the strategy period, the National Library will use development funding to strengthen cooperation and the sharing of resources between libraries, different types of institutions and administration levels. A particular emphasis will be placed on the municipal and regional reform and an assessment will be made of whether this leads to changes in the library landscape that require action.

The National Library's development funding has contributed to various cooperation initiatives over a number of years. Cooperation and partnerships between libraries, across public agencies/administrative boundaries, between libraries and actors in the voluntary or private sector, and between libraries, archives and museums are encouraged. In the public libraries, cooperation with volunteers is an important part of a good service provision. Several libraries work closely with voluntary centres and voluntary organizations in the municipality. Various training measures, such as language cafes, homework assistance and IT training are also often carried out in cooperation with voluntary organizations. The public library is an important partner for the national organization *Folkeakademiet*, both locally and at county level. The organization helps facilitate story workshops, live book events, conversation cafes, lectures and children's entertainment at the library.

Cooperation in the form of new methods of operation has also been tested using development funding. The Library Act sets few limits on possible forms of operation, as long as the local authority takes responsibility for the public library and that the chief librarian has a professional qualification. In practice, new forms of operation will normally entail an expanded provision of library services. Examples of existing services of this type are:

- *Self-service opening hours*, which gives users access to the library's premises even when no library staff are in attendance
- *Kindergarten libraries*, which involves the public library lending book collections to kindergartens and the kindergartens forming their own libraries
- *Workplace libraries*, which involves providing literature for use by an occupational group whose hours of work often make it difficult for them to use other libraries
- *Libraries and service offices*, which involves co-location of the public library, municipal information service and often digital guidance
- *Libraries in shops*, which entails borrowers ordering books on the internet, by email or telephone, and collecting them from a shop or petrol station near their home
- *Mobile library services*, in the form of a book bus or book boat
- *Branches with defined target groups*, such as *Biblo Tøyen*, which is aimed at children between the ages of 10 and 15

#### **EXAMPLE: FORMS OF OPERATION**

##### ***Biblo Tøyen, Deichman***

The library opened in 2016 and its books and events are specially aimed at children between the ages of 10 and 15. Adults do not have access. The goal is to help strengthen the reading skills of young people by offering knowledge-building activities in addition to literature. This is a meeting place, a place to relax, hang out, surf, fix things, read, learn and borrow books. There is literature for the older children, workstations with computers and iPads, workshop stations, a stage, games and sitting areas. The library is an important 'third place' and has a valuable function, especially in districts such as Tøyen, which have challenges related to density, overcrowding, language, cultural differences and integration.

***Nynorsk cabin libraries, Sogn og Fjordane County Library, Sogn og Fjordane county authority, Sparebankstiftinga Sogn og Fjordane and the municipalities***

The county authority initiated the construction of day-trip cabins in all municipalities in the county, with the goal of boosting outdoor activity and improving public health. Reading is also known to promote good health, and the county library has therefore established Nynorsk libraries in the cabins. In order to stimulate reading and raise awareness of good children's literature in Nynorsk, the cabins are equipped with a Nynorsk library with books that can be read at the cabins.

**EXAMPLE: FORMS OF COOPERATION**

***New municipalities – libraries in new roles (2018- ) Trøndelag County Library***

The project shall help knowledge-based decisions to be made about libraries in the municipal reform. The portal *Nye kommuner – nye bibliotek?* (new municipalities – new libraries) is a collection and presentation of resources based on the county library's advisory role in the development of new library models. The goal is to develop models for organizing library services in Trøndelag in the future municipal structure, such that the inhabitants and the municipal administration consider the libraries to be useful and attractive. The library will also contribute actively and constructively to the national discourse on the subject, with relevant input from specific situations.

***The library as a knowledge actor (2018-2021) Troms County Library***

The project aims to develop public libraries as a learning arena and knowledge contributor and adapt them to the local community in a way that gives the inhabitants of the county access to equitable services. The starting point is that public libraries and university libraries have a clear social mission to promote enlightenment and education. The aim is to improve the library service in the area of knowledge and training by organizing the work in a way that enables closer cooperation and an unambiguous clarification of the roles of the public libraries, the county library and the university library respectively. The project participants are the public libraries in the county, Troms County Library and the university library at UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

The county libraries have good local knowledge and have always constituted a strong link between the National Library and the public libraries. The county libraries contribute to skills development, infrastructure, information dissemination, regional networking and library development in general. This activity is often rooted in regional library plans or more general cultural or knowledge plans. By working together, the National Library and the county municipalities can ensure that the development funding better meets the need for developing the smallest public libraries. The National Library shall ensure that experiences are evaluated.

It is important that the libraries exploit the opportunities afforded by funding from other central government agencies to strengthen local cooperation. By doing so, not only is local cooperation developed, but the libraries also play a role in the implementation of national policies on culture and knowledge or other areas in a wider context. The funding linked to the strategy to combat child poverty strengthens libraries' role as arenas for culture, participation and democracy, and facilitates cooperation with the voluntary sector. Through funding linked to the *Digihjelpen* website, the libraries contribute to digital guidance while also enabling cooperation with other agencies or learning institutions. The Norwegian Film Institute's funding for film dissemination enables libraries to strengthen their events provision and profile and to develop cooperation with other actors in the cultural sector. Through Arts Council Norway's EEA funds, the libraries can participate in relatively simple partnership projects in the field of culture in cooperation with libraries in other countries.

### 5.3 Development of school libraries

NIFU conducts two annual surveys in the school sector on behalf of the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training, called *Spørsmål til Skole-Norge* (questions for schools in Norway). The questionnaire is sent to school administrators and school owners in both the local and county authorities. The survey conducted in the spring of 2018<sup>7</sup> showed that in the clear majority of primary

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.udir.no/contentassets/e995a2eb53544758b79a9559bed760e8/sporsmal-til-skole-norge-2018.pdf>

and secondary schools, the person in charge of the library is a teacher with no supplementary qualification in librarianship. Looking at the change over time in primary and lower secondary schools, we find that the proportion of teachers with further education in school librarianship has fallen from 15 to 8 per cent from 2009 to 2018. In upper secondary schools, the corresponding proportion has fallen from about half in 2009 and 2013 to just under a fifth in 2018.

As already mentioned, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training's grant scheme for school libraries is intended for staff resources or skills development with the aim of facilitating reading stimulation under the auspices of the school library – or the public library where this is used as a school library. During the strategy period, the National Library will announce funding for cooperation and development projects. Viewing the grants from the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and the National Library in conjunction with each other can potentially yield better effects and added value. The Ministry of Education and Research will extend the period for the grant from 2021 to 2023 in order to coincide with the library strategy period.

The responses from both primary and secondary schools in the survey of schools showed that a significant majority (64 and 66 per cent) of the schools' plans do *not* state how the school library shall be used in the education. One of the goals of the grant scheme for school libraries is for them to be an integral and enduring part of the school's educational activities. When allocating funds to local authorities that have applied for project grants, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training places some of the emphasis on whether the local authority has incorporated a plan for school libraries into its educational activities and whether they can relate the project to this plan.

In both 2018 and 2019, 27 local authorities were allocated funds. The measure will be evaluated to establish whether the increase in resources has improved pupils' access to school libraries.

*Språkløyper* - the Ministry of Education and Research's national strategy for language, reading and writing, ends in principle in 2019. As part of this programme, skills development packages have been developed for the school library as an educational resource, and these are specifically geared towards primary, lower secondary and upper secondary pupils respectively.<sup>8</sup> A new model for skills development has been introduced for staff in kindergartens and schools, where kindergarten and school owners prioritize the local use of skills funding in cooperation with higher educational institutions. *Språkløyper* is useful for implementing new curricula and new framework plans. The Ministry of Education and Research will therefore set aside funds for the maintenance, updating and operation of the online resource for a limited period of time.

The school library statistics are now collected by the National Library.<sup>9</sup> Work will be initiated to amend the regulations on library statistics, whereby the responsibility for collecting statistics on school libraries is transferred from the National Library to the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. This will be achieved by incorporating questions relating to school libraries into the system for registering information on primary and lower secondary schools (*Grunnskolen Informasjonssystem (GSI)*). An assessment shall be made of the relevance of the questions in their present form. The statistics must be collected in a practical and appropriate way that does not overly burden the schools.

#### **EXAMPLE: COOPERATION PROJECTS BETWEEN SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

##### ***Better libraries for children and adolescents, (2016-2019) Tromsø Public Library and City Archive***

The aim of the project is to update the cooperation between public libraries and school libraries in order to ensure that libraries are equipped to meet children's needs for literary and information literacy. A new cooperation model will be developed between public and school libraries to further develop and create a better library provision and more attractive and relevant collections. The goal is to increase the skills and knowledge in literature dissemination and literacy, and to facilitate active participation

<sup>8</sup> <https://sprakloyper.uis.no/category.php?categoryID=17609&q=+bibliotek>

<sup>9</sup> Regulations on library statistics of 5 January 1987

and user involvement in digital platforms, with a transfer value for both school libraries and public libraries.

***Ask a smarty, Ringsaker Public Library***

Independent thinking is crucial to being able to interpret the society around us, and is fundamental to developing empathy and respect for others. The project seeks to stimulate children's thinking, curiosity and critical sense by training them to ask good questions through the 'asking questions' initiative in schools. By doing so, the children develop a more conscious relationship to sources and questions. The knowledge they acquire will benefit them throughout their lives, but in the project, it will be used to question 'smart' speakers who are specialists in various disciplines, such as music, geology and coding.

<https://www.ringsaker.kommune.no/elever-paa-lspoerrekursr-for-aa-kunne-lspoerre-en-smartingr.6063140-196585.html>

<http://fylkesbiblioteket.sfj.no/lesarhistoria-ny-veg-til-lesaren.400594.nn.html>

## 6 Infrastructure

### Measures:

- Throughout the strategy period, the National Library will endeavour to increase the scope of digital material that the libraries can access.
- The National Library will negotiate with Kopinor to secure an extension of the Bookshelf service agreement.
- The Norwegian Film Institute will evaluate and further develop the procurement schemes for computer games.
- The National Library will raise awareness in school libraries of the Multilingual Library's general services.
- The National Library will offer documented machine-readable access to its open access digital collection.
- Arts Council Norway will establish a pilot project for school libraries in its procurement schemes.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT and the higher education institutions to secure access to the large printed collections of foreign journals found in Norwegian higher education libraries.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT and the higher education institutions to ensure the preservation of and access to documents and metadata in UNIT's national open research archive.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT to establish a national vault of metadata, which will constitute the only authorized source of metadata for Norwegian libraries and enable the reuse of metadata both between the libraries and between the libraries and other parties.
- The National Library will join forces with UNIT to ensure that the common register of authority records is implemented in the various library systems in Norway, and is expanded to include more types of authority records.
- The National Library will continue to develop the national library card.
- In cooperation with the county authorities, the National Library will hold seminars and conferences that provide knowledge and training in the use of national library services.
- The National Library will strengthen the bibliotekutvikling.no website as a professional resource for library staff.

### 6.1 Government objectives in the priority area

The government will strengthen and develop the National Library's shared physical and digital infrastructure for the country's libraries. The aim is to ensure that the libraries' collective resources, both physical and digital, will be more easily accessible to the population as a whole. This will also free up resources in the individual library that can and should be used for greater investment in dissemination and content production. As part of the national infrastructure, the National Library will offer the expertise libraries need.

One of the government's goals is to further develop library and information services at higher education institutions in order to bolster research, teaching and student learning at the institutions. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to make research more accessible, including for the general public. The government will therefore continue the work to provide open access to research articles and help put in place a national open research archive.

#### **FACTS: NATIONAL LIBRARY'S DIGITAL PLATFORMS**

##### ***Online library – nb.no***

Via the online library service at the nb.no website, material that is not protected by copyright will be made generally available. The National Library is systematically digitalizing all its collections with the aim of ensuring that as much of possible of our cultural heritage is freely available online. In cases where the National Library has entered into agreements with copyright organizations, users with Norwegian IP addresses also receive access to material that is protected by copyright. The entire digital collection is accessible for research and documentation.

### **Library Search**

The National Library's *Biblioteksøk* (Library Search) provides a point of access to all Norwegian library catalogues as well as allowing the placement of orders for loans. Norwegian library staff and borrowers with a national library card can order books and other material that libraries lend. The books and material ordered can be collected at the nearest library. The order will be expedited on the basis of criteria such as availability, geographical location and the number of previous loans. The Legal Deposit Library is a key supplier to Library Search, and Library Search also provides access to books in the National Library's digital collection.

### **Bibliotekutvikling.no**

Bibliotekutvikling.no is a website for professional knowledge exchange between library staff in Norway, and is the National Library's portal for library-related news and services targeting libraries. To gain access to the website in its entirety and to professional groups, you are required to register as a user. Without registration, you can access news from the National Library, and search the knowledge base and the events calendar. The website presents projects that have received project and development funding from the National Library. The website allows users to access forms for reporting statistics and application forms for development funding when this is available.

## 6.2 Digital content

Digital content in libraries is increasing. For some media, the physical and digital formats exist side by side, while others, such as audiobooks, are transitioning to purely digital distribution. For libraries, the transition to digital content entails several changes. While the library has previously occupied a physical space, a growing number of library services no longer require library premises. The loan of e-books and access to digital resources are mostly linked to portable devices outside the premises of the libraries. Meanwhile, libraries have access to major digital resources, including via the nb.no website, which are only accessible in the libraries, for example digital newspapers. The same applies to access to legally deposited material for research and documentation. Via the Bookshelf agreement and access to other digital resources on the nb.no website, a free library can also be distributed to the whole population, without the need for a library card or affiliation to a library. Access to digital content is crucial to the development of libraries. At the same time, access alone is not enough to ensure that the material is used. Experience from the previous strategy period shows that the use of the digital content already available in libraries is relatively small. The selection and communication of the digital resources the libraries want to procure and disseminate must be given the same level of importance as the procurement and dissemination of physical content.

As part of the development of the digital infrastructure, the National Library will help to create a digital foundation for Norwegian libraries. This will take place through the digitization of the National Library's own collections and through efforts to increase accessibility, clarify copyrights and share digital resources nationally. The digital library at the nb.no website is the National Library's instrument for accessibility and also forms the basis for access to legally deposited material for research and documentation purposes in libraries.

In the previous strategy period, the National Library was tasked with recommending a model for the procurement of e-books, and has now been commissioned to recommend a similar model for digital audiobooks. Currently there are models for the purchase of both e-books and digital audiobooks. Since these models have been in use for a relatively short period, no changes will be made in the immediate future, but in the 2020–2023 strategy period, the National Library will undertake an evaluation of the current model for e-books.

The county libraries have procurement consortiums for e-books and newspaper services for public libraries and school libraries. Together with the digital material from the National Library and Arts Council Norway, this constitutes the bulk of what libraries can offer users in terms of digital material. The National Library will map what is available in public libraries through the nb.no website, the procurement schemes of Arts Council Norway, the models for procuring e-books and audiobooks, and NLB's material, and will also analyse additional needs. If such needs are identified, the National Library will assess whether to adopt a role as coordinator in order to help meet this need.

Throughout the entire strategy period, the National Library will increase the volume of digital material to which libraries have access. Newspaper services will be extended. The nb.no website will be bolstered with broadcasting and music. The National Library will continually endeavour to secure rights of use for as much of the material as possible at home or in the library.

As a national actor, UNIT is responsible for procuring digital material in the field of higher education and research. This mainly applies to foreign journal packages designed for research and higher education. The public libraries are also offered some of this material.

### **Digital audiobooks in the library**

In recent years, the public's use of audiobooks has increased considerably, and this has led to a growing demand for audiobooks in the library. This has occurred at a time when consumer use of audiobooks is transitioning from a physical format that has been available in the library to digital distribution that has not been available previously.

Commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, the National Library presented a model for the loan of digital commercial audiobooks in public libraries in June 2019. This recommendation was submitted following a year of discussions between the National Library and the Norwegian Publishers' Association. In its model, the National Library focused on finding the necessary balance between the legitimate needs of publishers to develop sustainable business models for digital audiobooks and the libraries' need to offer digital media in order to fulfil their mandate.

Digital audiobooks are not part of Arts Council Norway's procurement schemes for literature. The individual library must procure digital audiobooks for free lending. The National Library's recommendation does not instruct public libraries to lend commercial digital audiobooks to their users.

Users with the right to borrow digital audiobooks offered by the Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (NLB) will receive guidance on this via the public libraries. They will be able to register there as users and thereby gain access to NLB's entire collection.

NLB produces and lends audiobooks and braille books to everyone who needs them, and with an annual production of over 1000 titles is Norway's biggest audiobook producer. The collection includes thousands of audiobooks of all genres for children, adolescents and adults. Borrowers may have dyslexia, vision impairment or other reading challenges, for example ADHD. In order to increase general awareness of NLB's range of services, the National Library will encourage public libraries to disseminate information about NLB actively and to provide guidance to users with the right to avail themselves of its services.

### **FACTS: UNIT (NORWEGIAN DIRECTORATE FOR ICT AND JOINT SERVICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH)**

UNIT negotiates and administers agreements with academic publishers on behalf of 177 higher education, research and health sector institutions as well as some county and public libraries. The agreements cover access to electronic resources such as e-journals, reference databases, dictionaries and encyclopaedias. The agreements are organized as a consortium of payment services. The goal of the negotiations is to achieve the best possible prices and conditions for special libraries and research libraries in Norway, and to ensure the greatest degree of open access to research literature.

## **6.3 National services**

### **Library Search**

The government will help to facilitate easy access to library collections. The National Library will further develop Library Search so that users have a single point of access to the libraries' physical and digital material. Users will have the opportunity to order books and access the digital collections. This paves the way for improved resource allocation and utilization in the library sector. Library Search gives everyone the same access to literature, regardless of the size of the library in the municipality

where they live. A new, upgraded version of Library Search was launched during the previous strategy period. There has been a steady increase in its use and it now allows borrowers themselves to order literature from all libraries in Norway. At the same time, this service relieves staff of the task of ordering material from other libraries and frees up resources locally.

#### **FACTS: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING AND PLAN S**

Our major investments in research are intended to promote the growth of knowledge and to contribute to economic and social development. Consequently, it is problematic that research results are mainly published in journals where access is restricted by a paywall in the form of expensive subscriptions.

In 2005, the Storting endorsed for the first time the objective of putting in place open publishing and universal access to research articles funded by public grants, and has reiterated its support several times since then. The Granavold political platform states that the government will make research more accessible by promoting more open research dissemination and more open data.

In Norway, UNIT – the Norwegian Directorate for ICT and Joint Services in Higher Education and Research – negotiates subscription agreements with publishers on behalf of universities and university colleges. Universities Norway (UHR) fully supports the requirement in the negotiations that Norwegian articles should be freely accessible at the time of publication and that open access publishing should not increase the overall costs.

In September 2018, the Research Council of Norway joined forces with a number of other national research councils in Europe, the European Commission and the European Research Council (ERC) in order to demand immediate open access to all academic publications based on research funded by these institutions from 2021 onwards. This initiative is termed Plan S, and the initiators have adopted the name cOAlition S. Subsequently, several European funding organizations have also indicated their support, as have funding organizations in Africa and the Middle-East and private foundation trusts such as the Wellcome Trust and the Gates Foundation.

There is little doubt that Plan S supports negotiations with publishers. Norway has successfully entered into publish-and-read agreements with the biggest publishers, and with the influential publisher Elsevier as a world first. Such agreements offer the advantage that researchers will not notice any difference from the current system because they do not need to think about paying article fees. Reader access to subscription journals is maintained through the agreements while at the same time publishing costs are covered.

The National Library will update the service continually in line with user needs. The user interface will be further developed, and the capability to view and access electronically available literature will be improved. The service will also be expanded such that films offered in the Norwegian Film Institute's service Filmbib<sup>10</sup> will be included in the search.

The dataset on which Library Search is based will be made accessible in machine-readable form so that it can be used in local services that libraries want to develop. An example might be closer integration of the local library system and Library Search, allowing users to experience a seamless transition from a local catalogue to other libraries' collections.

#### **National library card**

The national library card system was launched in 2005. In addition to acting as a library card for all Norwegian public libraries, the library card gives access to online services such as Library Search and the NFI's film service Filmbib.

The library card also gives access to self-service opening hours in libraries. The national library card will be further developed to become a more up-to-date service for borrowers and the library. Borrowers will be able to register as new users online and parents will be able to order library cards for their children. As well as being a physical library card, the library card will be available on mobile devices. When borrowers have the opportunity to acquire a national library card online – giving access in

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<sup>10</sup> Filmbib: <https://filmbib.no/>

practice to all libraries – it will be expedient to apply a common set of rules to its use.

### **The Legal Deposit Library**

Norwegian libraries can transfer books and other material to the National Library's Legal Deposit Library in order to free up space and also ensure that the literature is available both to the library in question and other libraries. As of 2019, the Legal Deposit Library contains approximately 1.3 million books and about 600 000 journal series for distance lending for Norwegian libraries. In addition, the collection contains Norwegian and foreign newspapers and journals on microfilm, Norwegian audiobooks dating back to 2004 and a wide range of foreign publications. This is intended to be a complete distance lending collection of publications issued in Norway, and the collection will be supplemented with whatever is lacking.

### **FACTS: THE NORDIC WORLD LIBRARY PROJECT**

The Nordic World Library Project gives everyone in Norway access to the streaming of e-books and audiobooks in Arabic, Tigrinya, Persian, Somali and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. These languages were chosen because it is difficult for the public libraries to procure e-books in these languages. The Nordic World Library Project is a cooperation between the national libraries in Norway, Sweden and Denmark supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, and jointly administered by the Scandinavian national libraries.

The Legal Deposit Library is intended to be a highly prioritized supplier of books in Library Search, and lends physical documents or provides access to digital material. The Library is also responsible for loans from the Multilingual Library.

During the strategy period, services offered to primary and secondary schools will be expanded. This will be achieved by developing a collection of classroom sets that can be borrowed as a supplement to the existing collection. The collection will mainly consist of fiction but some adapted literature and specialist literature will also be included.

### **The Multilingual Library**

From 2017, the National Library has been responsible for the Multilingual Library, which has three main functions:

1. Procurement and cataloguing of books and other material in approximately 50 different languages.
2. National centre for distance lending of media in minority languages in Norway.
3. Competence centre for library services to the multicultural Norwegian community with an emphasis on services to linguistic minorities (immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers).

The Multilingual Library offers a service to libraries and plays a vital role in providing a national infrastructure for multilingual library services. The service is nationwide, and in recent years, the Multilingual Library has made efforts to strengthen its function as a national competence centre in this area. The National Library arranges specialist conferences and gives presentations on different topics linked to multilingual library services in order to better equip Norwegian library staff to offer high-quality services to all its user groups. Language cafés represent a new area of expertise, and the Multilingual Library is currently establishing itself as an advisor to libraries that wish to arrange such cafés. Going forward, the Multilingual Library will also offer e-books and e-audiobooks as a supplement to printed books in some languages. We can gain experience and knowledge in this area from the Nordic World Library Pilot Project, which was concluded in spring 2019.

### **Reusing the national digital collection**

Libraries and end users have access to substantial amounts of content through the nb.no website. However, there may be grounds for providing access to all or part of the content in other ways, either by using a local approach or a thematic delimitation. The National Library will therefore offer a machine-readable interface (API) in respect of its digital collection so that those who so wish can develop their own services. This interface must be documented and made accessible to allow its use.

### **Other national services**

Norwegian public libraries receive almost half of their new acquisitions from *Arts Council Norway's*

*procurement schemes*. Some of the books for children and adolescents will be transferred from the public library to school libraries in the same municipality. Arts Council Norway will now establish a new pilot project for the procurement of books for school libraries. The pilot project has the aim of giving children and adolescents access to a wider range of titles than they have at the moment in school libraries. This is an arena that can potentially be accessible to all children irrespective of background and offer them a variety of different kinds of literature.

The pilot project will apply to primary and lower secondary school libraries, and it will incorporate books acquired through Arts Council Norway's procurement schemes for new Norwegian literature for children and adolescents (fiction, prose and comic books). During the trial period, the project will include only a selection of school libraries. The scheme will operate from 2020 and a three-year trial period is planned.

The pilot project will provide knowledge about the impact of greater access to literature in school libraries on young people's reading habits, whilst also charting the number of school libraries with resources to accept and disseminate new contemporary Norwegian literature to children and adolescents.

*NB noter* (Sheet music) is the National Library's publishing service for Norwegian contemporary music that has not been issued by a publisher. The National Library supplies performance material in accordance with the publishing-on-demand principle. The catalogue features more than 14 000 Norwegian works. An upgrade is now needed that facilitates, for example, online purchase and payment.

*Sámedikki girjerádjju – the Sami parliament library* has Norway's largest collection of books and other material in the Sami language and about Sami cultural heritage. These can be borrowed by users throughout Norway via their local library. The collection is also available in Library Search. *Sámi girjerádjubálvalus/Sami library service* is an advisory service for Sami material established by Troms County Library with libraries in Troms as the target group. Parts of the collection are placed in Nord-Troms' Library and Cultural Bus. Libraries, schools and kindergartens in Troms can order stock and borrow material.

Libraries in higher education in Norway have large printed *foreign journal collections* that are little used, and over time there has been a desire in the sector to hand these over to the Legal Deposit Library. In recent years, the National Library has taken part in a European network cooperation to consider a collaboration between libraries/library networks that can make collections available across regions/countries. The aim of the network cooperation is to ensure access to important material rather than simply physical storage.

The *National open research archive* will promote the realization of the government's goal that by 2024 all Norwegian research articles based on research funded by public grants will be open access. The national open research archive will collect and store digital versions of research results from Norwegian research institutions. In addition to research articles and other research results published in external channels, the overall documentation will include the institutions' report series, master degree theses and other material produced by each individual institution. The national open research archive will also establish a uniform workflow for the registration of research projects, research results and research data. The objective is that metadata will be registered and quality assured once, and that the archive will be a source of metadata in other systems, for example library catalogues. The national open research archive will ensure that publications governed by the Legal Deposit Act are made available for submission to the National Library. The National Library will ensure preservation and access. The Ministry of Education and Research has commissioned UNIT to implement a pilot project in the course of 2019.

### **Artificial intelligence**

The National Library's AI lab has been experimenting with artificial intelligence and machine learning for some time. The experiments have shown that the technology opens up new opportunities both by making the registration of metadata more efficient and by disseminating the collection to give users a greater opportunity to find what they are looking for among multiple digital objects. Machines can

collocate data and find connections that humans are unable to see. The National Library will make efforts to develop services based on artificial intelligence that can promote general awareness of the digital library and library collections.

## 6.4 Metadata

### **Free access to high-quality metadata**

Good solutions for retrieving material in the libraries' collections are of fundamental importance for access and resource allocation. A prerequisite is metadata of good quality, i.e. complete and correct descriptions that comply with international regulations and standards. The National Library is responsible for cataloguing regulations, the classification system and exchange formats for bibliographic data.

An important aspect of the *National strategy for libraries 2015–2018* was that the National Library should provide free access to high-quality bibliographic data for all libraries. The aim was to free up work resources in the libraries and ensure the same, quality-assured metadata in the libraries' catalogues. In practice, the National Library followed this up by paying for access to metadata for Norwegian publications of printed books, audiobooks, e-books and language courses in addition to book cover images. This scheme will be continued and the National Library will assess the feasibility and necessity of expanding the scheme by providing free metadata to other kinds of material such as film and music. Libraries have requested access to metadata for foreign material. In the strategy period, the National Library will attempt to find good solutions for including this in its deliveries.

### **Exchange of metadata**

Metadata is exchanged in machine-readable form from supplier to library, between libraries and from libraries to key services such as Library Search. This is an important step in facilitating seamless use and the development of good dissemination services. Agreement on how data are to be formatted and conveyed is safeguarded by using shared formats and protocols. The National Library determines the format and protocols that Norwegian libraries must use.

Sharing and combining metadata from various sources represents an increasing trend in the development of new services online. The use of linked data opens up new opportunities. One example is the enrichment of the catalogue with information about authors, performers or composers derived from the Norwegian encyclopaedia *Store norske leksikon* or Wikipedia, for instance. Metadata in the form of linked open data do not appear as one unified description (bibliographic entry) but as separate units with separate machine-readable and unique identifiers (URIs). This paves the way for flexible reuse of data elements in different contexts and provides new opportunities to develop both national services and the libraries' own services. The new cataloguing rules – Resource Description and Access (RDA) – facilitate the publishing of bibliographic data as linked open data. Efforts are now being made internationally to define a new standard that supports the formatting and exchange of metadata as linked data.

All metadata produced by the National Library are open and freely accessible. During the strategy period, the data will be made accessible as linked data. In addition, libraries will continue to have access to data in the current MARC 21 format in order to ensure that all existing services and systems function well.

### **Metadata vault and the common register of authority records**

During the previous strategy period, the National Library established Library Search and a common register of authority records with unique identifiers for persons and corporations. Efforts to complete the common register of authority records for works are ongoing. The next step will be for libraries to implement the use of the register in their library systems.

Library Search functions by collecting metadata from the libraries' catalogues, whereupon metadata entries from different libraries for the same document will be combined automatically. Despite the standardized set of rules for registration and central access to metadata, local practices in the libraries affect the quality of Library Search. There are still too many duplicates that are easy for a human to

see, but not for a computer that will do an automated merge.

A further step towards the goal of 'one book, one catalogue entry' will be to create a single authorized source for the metadata – a metadata vault. All metadata produced by the National Library for the Norwegian National Bibliography will be included in the metadata vault. Libraries can obtain metadata for their local catalogues, and this will be accompanied by a unique identification of the metadata. The metadata vault will also constitute a hub for the reuse of metadata between libraries. Other metadata suppliers can link up to the same infrastructure. The names of persons and corporations, works and genres will also be allocated a unique identifier.

The metadata vault will be accessible via open and standardized interfaces and formats (MARC 21 and linked data) so that libraries can easily link up their systems to this. The National Library and other suppliers can offer supplementary services (key words, descriptions of content, reviews etc.) for the data in the metadata vault.

Library Search can be based on data in the metadata vault and can only retrieve information about stock and lending status from the local library catalogues. This eliminates the current challenge of having to combine different entries.

The metadata vault and the affiliated common register of authority records are intended to contain master data from all libraries, including libraries in higher education, and will thus unite the library sector in the field of metadata and better facilitate resource sharing. This requires libraries to integrate the system with their own library systems. The authority records will be useful for authorizing the names of persons linked to research publication in the national open research archive.

## 6.5 Research data

Many special libraries and research libraries adapt research data for sharing and reuse. By paving the way for simpler access to research data, the threshold for reuse can be lowered while the data can also be used in different areas. The international FAIR principles – an acronym based on the words *findable*, *accessible*, *interoperable*, and *reusable* – represent a set of principles for good adaptation for further use of research data. It is crucial to develop a shared infrastructure in order to provide access to different types of resources underpinning these principles.

Users want access to various types of resources in the same location. This requires the library sector to have a holistic approach and develop satisfactory shared solutions. In a shared infrastructure, a common conceptual framework, open access to data and metadata and a common register of authority records are pivotal. This will allow more automated reuse of information, thus creating more cost-effective and better services for the end user across systems. In order to achieve this, the National Library and UNIT must both coordinate and collaborate with the library sector.

### FACTS: METADATA

#### ***National bibliographic services***

The National Library is responsible for the Norwegian National Bibliography, which documents all publications governed by the Legal Deposit Act and works published by Norwegian copyright holders in other countries. The registration complies with library standards and shall serve as a norm for good cataloguing and classification practice in Norway. The data are universally and freely accessible. The Sami bibliography documents publications in the Sami language and Sami-related documents in all languages. Norart (Norwegian and Nordic journal articles) contains references to articles in Norwegian printed and electronic journals and annals – approximately 400 Norwegian and Nordic journals and 60 annals. Norart also reports scientific publications from researchers at Norwegian universities and university colleges to Cristin (Current research information system in Norway).

#### ***Cataloguing rules***

Cataloguing rules are rules on the formal description of documents, including the names of those responsible for the publishing, titles, publication date, subject etc. A Norwegian version of Resource Description and Access (RDA) provides the applicable cataloguing rules in Norway.

### **Classification system**

The classification system is used for subject-based organization of literature and can be employed in both the retrieval and shelving of books. The current rules in Norway are embodied in the Norwegian WebDewey, which is a complete translation of the Dewey Decimal Classification, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition (DDC 23).

### **Exchange format**

A formalized, machine-readable description of bibliographic data is used for exchanging data between library systems. The current format is MARC 21, which is also used internationally.

### **Linked data**

Linked data are made available in machine-readable format where each data element is represented by a unique machine-readable identifier – a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) – that can be read in a browser. Metadata supplied as linked open data do not act as ‘an entry’ as for example in the MARC format, but as separate units with their own URIs. This permits flexible reuse of the data elements in different contexts.

## **6.6 Skills development**

We live in a time where the sources of knowledge are stored and disseminated on new platforms with rapidly changing technologies. Our way of communicating is changing more swiftly than at any time in our history, and the need to change and develop the library is therefore acute. Libraries and librarians must index, retrieve and disseminate knowledge. Meanwhile, library staff must provide guidance on online sources. The library should be the most natural place to turn to for those who wish to distinguish between real and fake news, and between good and bad sources of knowledge. It is crucial that staff have broad, updated skills in order to ensure that libraries can fulfil their societal tasks and deliver a good range of library services. Librarians’ acquisition of new skills is crucial for developing new and future-oriented services.

In addition to formal higher education, the county authorities play an important role in enhancing competence in the libraries. The National Library cooperates with county libraries in respect of professional development and skills sharing.

The school owner is responsible for ensuring that librarians in schools have the necessary and appropriate skills.<sup>11</sup> The school owner must put in place a system giving teaching staff, school administrators and personnel with special tasks in the school system the opportunity to develop the necessary skills with the aim of updating and extending their professional and pedagogical knowledge and enabling them to stay abreast of developments in schools and society.

The decentralized scheme for skills development has allowed school owners throughout Norway to prioritize local needs in cooperation with other school owners in the county as well as local universities and university colleges. In order to boost media reading skills in schools, local assessments of skills development needs should also include assessments of the needs of school librarians. Such skills can help equip children and adolescents to distinguish between real and fake news.

### **EXAMPLE: COOPERATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

The National Library provides funding to develop various skills-enhancing measures for libraries – the county authorities are important partners in this respect. Examples are:

#### **Children’s library – promoting competence!**

In collaboration with all the county libraries and Oslo Metropolitan University, Trøndelag County Library has been responsible for developing the study programme on children, media and the library as an online course for staff in public libraries and school libraries who work with children.

#### **Genre school**

Akershus County Library has developed physical and digital genre courses with a separate course compendium for use by library staff in the dissemination of library content. This course will be offered

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<sup>11</sup> Section 10-8 of the Education Act

to library staff on the National Library's web page [bibliotekutvikling.no](http://bibliotekutvikling.no).

### **The library – a safe meeting place?**

In this project, Møre og Romsdal County Library, in collaboration with the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees, the Norwegian Union of Librarians, Oslo Metropolitan University, libraries in Oslo, Moss, Fredrikstad, Kristiansund, Sunndal and Volda, has developed a toolkit to help libraries tackle aggressive users and difficult situations in a way that also creates a secure setting in libraries generally. This will also be available on the [bibliotekutvikling.no](http://bibliotekutvikling.no) website.

### **Skills sharing, conferences and course activities**

The National Library's allocation of project and development funding is an instrument used to strengthen skills development in libraries, and the transfer of experience from development projects is a key component of skills development. The National Library will pave the way for skills enhancement and sharing between libraries by arranging library conferences and seminars that will also be streamed on the [nb.no](http://nb.no) or [bibliotekutvikling.no](http://bibliotekutvikling.no) websites.

### **FACTS: LIBRARIAN EDUCATION**

Regulations on qualifications required for public library staff stipulate that chief librarians with a professional qualification in local authorities and library managers in county authorities must have one of the following backgrounds:

- a) Bachelor or higher degree with a minimum of 120 ECTS in library-related subjects
- b) Bachelor or higher degree with at least 60 ECTS in library-related supplementary subjects
- c) Equivalent education

Today, several educational institutions offer professional library-related studies. Oslo Metropolitan University offers study programmes in library and information sciences, while the University of Tromsø (UiT) offers study programmes in media and documentation science. The University of Agder (UiA) offers a study programme in school library science. All these study programmes are considered to be specifically related to libraries and are accepted as vocational training as defined by the Act.

The Department of Archivistcs, Library and Information Science at Oslo Metropolitan University will introduce a new programme description for the bachelor's degree in library and IT science as of autumn 2020. At present, plans are not complete but in June 2019, a departmental working group submitted a proposal for reorganization. In addition to outlining a newly designed compulsory first year, the proposal suggests that students should be allowed to spend more time on elective specializations from the third semester. The professional subjects that are clearly highlighted and strengthened include communication, source criticism, information law including privacy protection, event management skills and research communication. The Department also hopes to be better placed to satisfy needs for further education at bachelor's degree level through online study programmes. In 2019, courses in children, media and the library, and the library in society, were offered in collaboration with the county library management board and Troms county authority.

The National Library offers courses and skills development programmes in its specialist areas and holds regular courses and information meetings about its services. To ensure that these services are utilized, it is vital to disseminate knowledge about the options and sources the National Library can offer. The goal is for as many as possible to utilize the digitalized content available and the best way to achieve this is to provide training by means of practical demonstration. The National Library therefore offers various courses and presentations all over Norway in order to provide practical training in the use of the services.

Public libraries must give all users the opportunity to borrow and read books, fiction as well as specialist literature. The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille produces audiobooks for people who for various reasons are unable to read ordinary books. In the strategy period, libraries must familiarize themselves with and be capable of disseminating and using NLB's services for digital audiobooks which are intended for everyone with reading difficulties or physical limitations that make them eligible to use such services.

NLB is responsible for ensuring that the service is simple and easily accessible for librarians and users. The National Library will assume responsibility for providing information about this and ensuring that training and information about the services is available to libraries.

### **Bibliotekutvikling.no as a digital platform for skills enhancement**

The National Library's bibliotekutvikling.no website is intended to be a digital platform for interaction between the country's library staff in connection with development projects and other library-related questions, as well as being a source of information about national services that are mainly delivered by the National Library. Moreover, the website will function as a pivotal resource for skills sharing and enhancement in the library sector by being a digital platform that provides a professional top-up in the form of courses and seminars regardless of the libraries' geographical location.

The bibliotekutvikling.no website can and should be a meeting place for the digital sharing of professional content from courses, conferences, seminars and webinars held for library staff throughout the country. The offer of streaming professional events via the National Library's website helps ensure equal access to skills development and professional updating for all library staff irrespective of their location. This is a solution that forms a natural part of the bibliotekutvikling.no website and it will particularly assist small libraries and school libraries that have limited time and resources to send staff on courses.

The National Library will strengthen the website as a professional resource for library staff by expanding it through a recently developed e-learning platform. The e-learning platform was developed in cooperation with the county libraries, and a first version has been launched. This platform will be developed during the strategy period as an instrument whereby the county libraries and other relevant actors can create e-learning courses for library staff in Norwegian libraries. This will enable the National Library to have a dialogue with specific professional communities that can use the e-learning portal on the website as a resource for libraries, for example by creating a portfolio with tailor-made courses for specific areas of the library sector. The development of courses and professional content should take place in situ, whether in the professional community or the county library, while the National Library develops the platform in order to boost the opportunities for skills enhancement in the sector.

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