Icelandic Libraries in the Electronic Age

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Points of interest

- The Electronic National Library
- The Electronic Research Library
- New Information Policy
Landsbókasafn Íslands – Háskólabókasafn

- National Library, founded in 1918
- Library of University of Iceland, founded in 1940
- Amalgamated into a new building in 1994
- Assuming the roles of both libraries
National and University Library

- Deposit library for Icelandic publications
- Holds copies of everything published in Icelandic
- Holds precious manuscript collections
- Legal requirements to catalogue Icelandic publications and publish national bibliography
National and University Library

- Providing services to all faculties of the University of Iceland
- The main research library in the country
- Emphasis on information literacy
National and University Library

- Strategy for the future:
  - Service contract with the Ministry of Education with emphasis on the development of electronic services
  - The Electronic National Library
  - The Electronic Research Library
Digitisation policy

- **Distribution of information about the Icelandic cultural heritage.** To publicise and facilitate access to the Icelandic written cultural heritage, by making it available beyond the walls of the Library. This is done in full cooperation with those that hold the copyright to the material in question.

- **Preservation for the future.** To preserve the documents in original form. Documents that are in physical form shall also be preserved in digital form in order to minimize the use of the originals. The documents that are only available in digital form are preserved for the future and access to them secured.

- **Service to users.** To meet the needs of users, wherever they are, by making Icelandic material accessible on the Internet. The Library will also make an effort to facilitate the location of digital form of a document by linking it to the cataloguing posts in Gegnir, the nation-wide library system.
The Electronic National Library

Material now in digital form, accessible on the Web

- [http://kort.bok.hu.is/](http://kort.bok.hu.is/) All Icelandic maps published before 1900 (500 maps).
- [http://sagnanet.is/](http://sagnanet.is/) Old manuscripts from the Icelandic Sagas and related literature (240,000 pages) as well as books and journals related to the topic (153,000 pages).
- [http://www.timarit.is/](http://www.timarit.is/) All Icelandic newspapers and journals published from the beginning to ca. 1920 (350,000 pages).
The Electronic National Library

- **Web-harvesting.** The complete Icelandic web has been systematically harvested three times a year since 2005. About 40 sites are harvested more frequently and one theme-related harvesting is done per year, in 2007 related to the elections for Parliament. The material is preserved but is not accessible.

- **Individual books, published 1530-1844** (about 20,000 pages). These books are not yet available on the Internet.

- **Individual manuscripts** (about 12,400 pages.) that are delicate or much in demand have been digitised but are not available on the Internet.
The Electronic National Library

Next steps

- **Reception of documents in pdf-form**
  - The Library plans to receive pdf-form for both newspapers and books. Some of the big newspaper-publishers have agreed to hand over the pdf-form of their publications to the Library. Discussions have been initiated with the Union of Icelandic Publishers that the Library preserve their books in pdf-form. The Library needs to create the facilities for this reception.

- **Digitisation of material**
  - The manuscript collection from (ÍBR), the Icelandic Literary Society (280 manuscripts, about 80,000 pages).
  - All Icelandic newspapers published after 1920 (about 1,250,000 pages).
  - All Icelandic books published before 1900 (about 1,600 items, 400,000 pages).
The National Library has two digital cameras. One processes about 25-30,000 pages per month, located in the National Library. A new processing line is in Akureyri which will focus on the political newspapers published during the 20th Century. The Parliament has given a three-year grant to finance the project.

A contract has been made with the 365-newspaper-publishers to digitise their newspapers, about 510,000 pages. The company partly finances the project for the next three years.
Experiments to convert printed bibliographies to electronic form

- Printed bibliography of manuscripts, 7 volumes 13,603 records, 1918–1996
Printed Manuscript Catalogue


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Gegnir
National Union Catalogue

- One library system for the whole country and all types of libraries
- Aleph-system from Ex Libris
  - Owned by the National government and all the Local authorities
  - Came into function in 2003
  - Run as a private company. Libraries pay monthly dues for services
The Electronic Research Library

- National licences to electronic journals and data-bases
  - 14,000 foreign journals
  - Journal vendors: Science Direct (Elsevier), Synergy (Blackwell), SpringerLink, Karger, Sage
  - Database vendors: ProQuest, EBSCO, Encyclopedia Britannica, etc.
The Electronic Research Library

Service contract between the National Library and Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Library pays for contracts and collects money from most libraries
The Electronic Research Library

- The Library Web-site contains much information on available material.
- TD-NET contains both printed journals and electronic journals available through licences at landsbokasafn.is
- The Library provides instruction in information literacy to students
- The Library is the national center for interlibrary loans
Information for all
New Information Policy

- The Icelandic library in the Knowledge society 2007-2011
- Published by Information – The Icelandic Library and Information Science Association
- Published in May 2007
Information for all

- The four key issues
  - That Icelanders have comparable access to information and knowledge to other nations
  - That all libraries in Iceland have staff with qualification and skills that suit the library and its services
  - That Icelanders have access to professional information service in all parts of the country
  - That all libraries, run for public monies, form a unified library system and have cooperation among themselves.
Information for all

- Collections – Organization – Access
- Human Resources and Education of Staff
- Services
- User groups
Information for all

- Definition of the role of libraries in the knowledge society
- Libraries as defined in the information policies of the government
- Libraries and electronic access
- Library legislation
- Finances
- Cooperation
- Coordination of library activities