



## Newspapers at the National Library of Norway

Norway is a country with many newspapers considering how few people live here. The circulation of newspapers in Norway is the biggest in the world per capita, with nearly 600 copies per 1000 inhabitants.

The first Newspaper *Norske intelligenssedler* was issued in 1763. In 1767 the first issue of *Adresseavisen* appeared on the streets of Trondheim, making this the oldest of the newspapers that are currently being published

### Legal Deposit

Newspapers have always been a part of the Legal Deposit system in Norway. Which means that all the papers published in the 20th century, and many of the newspaper published before 1900 have been received as a result of this law. In addition to this, older material was bought and collected by the University Library of Oslo. This means that the Norwegian newspaper collection contains nearly all the newspapers published since 1763.

In 1989 the National Library was established as an institution

outside the University Library. A production line has been set up for retrospective filming of newspapers that have not been filmed earlier, and newspapers where the films are in bad condition. 600 000 pages were filmed retrospectively in 1999. The microfilms are made according to the existing standards and guidelines for preservation micro-filming, and are considered as the long time preservation copies of the newspapers. The NLN also sells copies of the microfilm to libraries and newspapers worldwide. As part of this process the parliament also sanctioned a new Legal Deposit law, and established a division of the National Library in a town called Mo i Rana, near the Arctic Circle, 1000 km. north of Oslo. The Rana Division is responsible for the Legal Deposit, the Norwegian Repository library, a Sound & Image archive, a media Laboratory, and from 1996 also the Newspaper Library. The National Library of Norway (NLN) now has 330 employees, 200 of whom work in Mo i Rana.

The Newspaper Library was established in 1996 when most of the bound newspapers were

transferred from Oslo to Rana, and kept there in storage vaults. The material was bound until 1990 and put in boxes after that. The vaults are climate controlled: the humidity being 35% rh, the temperature 8°C, the air is changed once every hour and cleaned in 5 filters. The Rana Division contains all newspapers in print form, good microfilm copies, and some material in digital form.

### Microfilm editions

Most Norwegian newspapers have been microfilmed once. The problem is that many of them from the 1950's and the 1960's are in very bad condition. In 1990 the Rana Division of the NLN established a Microfilm Section, and now all the 220 Norwegian newspapers are filmed here. Each year this filming adds up to approximately 1200 000 pages.

### Digital copies

The third part of the Newspaper Library is the digital part. This depends very much on the development of the copyright legislation, and because of the changes in this respect during the last years. The Library bases the digital part on three sources. First the digitising of printed newspapers by scanning the microfilm. Secondly, digitizing copies of the newspapers, transferred from publishers. So far this has only done been as an experiment. Thirdly the downloading of versions of the Internet editions of Newspapers, which are included in the Norwegian Legal Deposit Act.

We digitize microfilm using two Mekeel scanners (Scanmaster, M500GS from Houston Fearless). Because of the copyright legislation scanning is not a regular part of the workflow at the microfilm section. We scan three types of material:

- old newspapers in public domain (pre 1900)

- newspapers as a part of different projects
- newspapers in cooperation with publishers who want to digitize back issues.

A working group has been established between NLN and the Norwegian Newspaper Publishers' Association (NAL), which will investigate possible fields of co-operation. The publishers are establishing a company to handle digital clearance of newspaper material, which will probably also function as a text archive for many of the big newspapers in Norway. This archive will be of interest to NLN. It is hoped to establish a project to test on-line deliverance of newspapers. As a part of such a project. Computer Output on Microfilm (COM) will be examined as a way of creating preservation copies of the files.

The Newspaper Library has participated in several projects during the last years. On a national level we have cooperated with a Museum, and digitized all issues of a *Nordlands Avis*, (1893 - 1978). All in all 25 000 pages were microfilmed, digitized and put on the Internet in a manner whereby each issue can be browsed.

The **TIDEN project** is a Nordic project, in co-operation with Finland, Denmark and Sweden. In this project a joint Nordic digital newspaper library was created on the Net.

Together with partners in Austria, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Germany we participated in a EU-project (LAURIN) that was completed in August 2000. The project tried to set up an integrated system for digitization and indexing of newspaper clippings. In this project we were responsible for the copyright part, which turned out to be a very difficult task.

**Jonny Edvardsen**

### 68th IFLA Conference Glasgow 2002

The theme of the Open Session will be  
**Newspapers of the British Isles**  
Wednesday, 21st August 8.30 - 11.00



**JOHN LAUDER** (NEWSPLAN 2000 Project,  
The British Library, London, UK)

*Partnerships in preservation: the NEWSPLAN 2000 project experience*

**IAN HUTCHISON** (University of Stirling, Stirling, UK)

*Scottish newspapers and Scottish national identity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*

**ELIZABETH MELROSE** (North Yorkshire County Library,  
Northallerton, UK)

*From Bristol Post Boy to the Twin Towers. Local news papers in England*

**Prof. ALED JONES** (University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK)

*Print, language and identity: newspapers in Wales since 1804*

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Ms. Sandra Burrows, Canada  
Mme. Else Delaunay, France  
Jonny Edvardson, Norway  
Ms. Elza Erdelji, Croatia  
Ms. Elena Garcia-Puente Lillo,  
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Ms. Isabelle Rollet, France  
Ross Shimmon, The Netherlands  
Dr Henry Snyder, USA  
Ms. Nancy Stewart, USA  
Mark Sweeney, USA  
Wilbert Ubbens, Germany  
Mihkel Volt, Estonia  
Ms. Olga Yadykina, Russia  
John Dorr, USA

## Report of the US Newspaper Program (USNP), 2001 Annual Meeting, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 26 – 27 April 1

Bob Harriman, the USNP Co-ordinator chaired the first session. He gave an overview of the USNP since its inception in 1984. Reports from Projects still ongoing show a great variety of activities. For example:

- New York State has been filming since 1987, with 20,000 newspaper tides catalogued, 2.5 million pages filmed.
- The Vermont, Newspaper Project was the List state to join the USNP.
- The Survey Phase in 1994 identified more than 700 newspapers for recording and microfilming in 85 repositories. As of April 2001, 1,000 titles have been catalogued on OCLC, and 3,000 holdings records have been established in the USNP Union list in OCLC

Individual talks were given about the activities of three States:

- Rosemary Szczygiel gave an informed talk on how the **Arizona** newspaper Project tracked down local Arizona papers, in particular those relating to the Civil War and other military newspapers dating from 1863.
- Birdie MacLennan showed how a small state such as **Vermont** has a long varied history finding expression in newspapers, some of which precede its Statehood (e.g. the *Vermont Gazette*) The *Union List of Vermont Newspapers* has been published (<http://danalibuvm.edu/vtnphome.html>)
- Errol Somay gave a witty talk, on the **Virginia** Newspaper Project. He showed several slides of newspaper banners from the 1770s, emphasising how diversity found expression in

- newspapers as the State developed.

In the context of the recent publicity relating to American newspaper disposals, it was greatly encouraging to be reminded that the many State libraries, archives and local historical societies have no intention whatsoever of disposing of original newspapers after microfilming.

Dr. Hartmut Walravens, The Chairman of IFLA RTN to outlined RTN's recent work on:

- The Directory of Newspaper Collections. It has been mounted on the IFLANET <http://www.ifla.org/VII/rt13/rtnew.htm#8>
- A *Supplement on Best Practice for the Microfilming of Newspapers in Preparation for Possible Future Digitisation*
- A Topography of Newspaper Collections in Germany
- The production of the RTN *Newsletter*, which serves to disseminate information re. newspaper collections.

Majlis Bremer-Laamanen reported on the Nordic Digitised Newspaper Library. Progress has been substantial; in particular in relation to the software developed to deal with gothic fonts. (<http://www.tiden.kb.se>). Emphasis has been placed upon digital solutions that are scaleable and portable.

A panel of four : Ed. King (UK), Russell Martin (AAS), Mary Jane Starr (Canada) and Mark Sweeney (USA) focused on newspaper collection, reformatting and disposal. It was to inform USNP participants about the policies of three national libraries and the American Antiquarian Society re.



*Lunch in the Getty Museum Restaurant before our visit to the Library*

collection policies, acquiring, retaining and providing access to newspapers, and how policies have changed over the last ten years.

### Next Business Meeting.

RTN Members accepted an invitation from Majlis Bremer-Laamanen to hold the Spring 2002 RTN Business Meeting in Finland. The provisional date agreed is for Monday 27 May 2002, but was later changed to June 3-7.

## Report of the 14th Business Meeting held at the Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley, San Francisco, 30 April 2001

Visits to:

- Sacramento State Library/ State Capitol
- Bancroft Collection, California Newspaper Project, Berkeley Campus, University of California.
- Press Enterprise and Collection at Riverside, University of California
- Huntingdon Library Southern California Newspaper Society

Dr. Hartmut Walravens the Chairman welcomed us all, and especially John Dorr and Mark Sweeney to their first meeting.

He thanked Else Delaunay for providing the French translations of **the Guidelines for the Preservation Microfilming of Newspapers"** (*published by IFLA in 1996*).

The English and French version will soon be mounted on the internet.

The storage of master negative microfilm was discussed and the RTN urges all national and other libraries to monitor the whereabouts and storage conditions of all masters and to store the masters if cannot be stored properly elsewhere.

Edmund King asked all Members to send details of their national newspaper web access sites to be mounted on the IFLANET.

Members were also asked to draw attention from libraries in their country to *The Directory of Newspaper Collections*. The Directory and a survey form had been mounted on the IFLANET. Also mounted on the IFLANET was a statement regarding searching catalogue files by field 876.

One goal which needs action is "to explore the potential use of digital scanners for the colour microfilming of newspapers.

RTN members gave presentation on the latest developments on newspaper preservation and access. A short report on each will be included in the next issue.

## Cuba: A new preservation project: Cataloguing, restoration and reproduction of 19th century newspapers

project on Cuban newspapers of the 19th century to the Standing Committee on Cuban Libraries and Archives set up by the Working Group on Cuba of the American Council of Learned Societies/Social Science Research Council. The Ford Foundation supports the Committee for the appreciation of the work to carry forward. Members of the Standing Committee are drawn from the relevant Cuban institutions as well as the United States, Europe, and Latin America, and represent the relevant areas of specialization (preservation, collection building, microfilming, digitization).

A subsidiary selective committee has been set up for the grant competition. Both committees ought to represent Cuban interests as well as foreign expertise. In October 2001 the Ford Foundation granted support for a two-year project including approximately \$75 000 per year allocated for an array of small grants to various institutions within the library and archive community in Havana and in the provinces.

The project of the Biblioteca Nacional includes the carrying out of an union catalogue of Cuban newspaper from the 19th century and the Microfilming of the collection.

It is urgent to preserve the nation's newspaper collection from destruction. The setting up of an

union newspaper catalogue is essential so as to know about possible gaps in the holdings and the physical condition of the items. At the Biblioteca Nacional cataloguing of Cuban newspapers and serials started in the 1960's. In 1965 a catalogue of titles covering the 18th and 19th centuries was published. It was followed up by a second edition in 1984 including 119 titles with issues completing the holdings recorded in the first edition. Since then the collection has been enriched owing to donations and acquisitions.

There is indeed a great need for preserving old newspapers in Cuba. The state of deterioration of the holdings varies in the different libraries and archives across the country. The biggest collections are kept by the Biblioteca Nacional and the Biblioteca del Instituto de Literatura y Linguística (ILL) including both national and provincial newspapers. But many other libraries in Cuba keep holdings of Cuban newspaper.

The present project includes the following points:

- listing of the physical condition of the items in the Biblioteca Nacional and in other institutions in order to make a diagnosis
- estimate of staff needed
- establishment of an automated union catalogue of newspaper holdings
- publishing of the union catalogue on CD and on the Web



- restoration, preservation and microfilming of a selection of Cuban 19th century newspapers
- estimate of costs: staff, training, equipment, etc. and estimate of the time necessary for accomplishment.

The project is supposed to be achieved in twelve months at a cost of around \$ 25 000 for training, preparing of the items, microfilming and checking, restoration, and \$ 41 000 to carry out and publish the catalogue, a total of \$ 66 000.

The impact of the project would be:

- assessment of need of restoration, microfilming and digitization
- making available a catalogue of 19th century Cuban newspaper for national and international users
- location of foreign institutions whose Cuban newspaper holdings may fill the gaps in the holdings in Cuba through microfilms or other media
- making an extension of the project allowing new funding in order to complete the holdings of this very important part of Cuban national heritage

Estimates of costs seem to be a bit low. It is up to the international library community to offer experience and expertise to our Cuban colleagues. IFLA PAC as well as IFLA Round Table on Newspapers should have the capacity to provide some help, for instance through newspaper cataloguing and preservation guidelines.

**Else Delaunay**  
Bibliothèque nationale de France

RTN members thanked Henry Snyder for organising the meeting in California

## 67th IFLA Conference Boston 2001

Theme: *Newspapers of the Americas.*

The first paper was given by **Celia Ribeiro Zaher** and **Maria Angelica Varella** from the National Library of Brazil *Brazilian History through Journalism*. The paper gives a general view on the beginnings of the newspaper in the country with information of the more significant titles and their role in the history of journalism and impact on social changes between the Imperial and the Republican periods. It also described the present and historical collections and efforts to preserve it through microfilming and digitizing processes. It gives brief information on the on-line access of the newspaper data bases.



**Gary F. Kurutz** from the California State Library in Sacramento gave a paper on *Newspapers and the Californian Gold Rush*. He covered the discovery and its reporting by the local press, the experiences of the Argonauts as reported in the national and international press, the singular value of the newspaper as a link to home, and the unprecedented birth and death of newspapers in California during the first years of this international rush for riches.

*Mesplet to Metadata: Canadian Newspaper Preservation and Access* **Fleury Mesplet** was one of the first printers of newspapers in North America. He began a long tradition of publishing under difficult circumstances. **Sandra Burrows's** paper traces the development of the National Library of Canada's newspaper collection in conjunction with the decentralized programme for Canadian Newspapers.

**Eric Newton**, founding managing editor of *The Newseum* spoke about the future of news.

### IFLA Symposium, Paris, 21-24 August 2000

*Gerer la Conservation des Périodiques et la Presse*  
Managing the Preservation of Periodicals and Newspapers

Perhaps the main issue at this Symposium which took place at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, was the relation between traditional materials (paper and microfilm) and digital documents. There was unanimity that traditional materials were the more readily preserved and that microfilming is still the best way to preserve newspapers. At the same time, it was also agreed that academic and research libraries need to provide a good, up-to-date service to meet the demands of their current users, which are increasingly for on-line access. Libraries must therefore collect and preserve electronic documents, even when this is done at the expense of existing core activity. Corinne Verry-Jolivet, Librarian of the Pasteur Institute, crystallised the librarian's dilemmas in her paper on processing electronic scientific journals. She drew attention to the complex problems involved in managing an up-to-date scientific library linking electronic and paper sources. Meanwhile John Tagler, of Elsevier Publishers, in his paper on the future of electronic publishing, gave a clear indication of more changes yet to come.

## Newspapers of Sub-Saharan Africa

The Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association (ASA) and the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) are beginning a two-year project to create an electronic database of holdings information for newspapers (all formats and all languages) published in sub-Saharan Africa. Initially, this database, the African Newspapers Union List (AFRINUL), which will be created and maintained at CRL, will consolidate holdings information for collections in North America, but will later expand to include holdings in Africa, Europe, and elsewhere. The Union List will meet the needs of researchers by providing greatly enhanced access to African newspapers.

The Co-operative African Newspapers Project will also, while developing the Union List database, explore issues related to the preservation of this inherently ephemeral and fragile form of publication. Access to contents through both traditional and new technologies will be investigated.

The project phases include.

- creation of an African Newspapers Union List,
- a centralized funding aid for African newspapers held in North American libraries and elsewhere;
- preservation of these fragile resources through microfilming of titles existing only on paper; and digitization of the content of newspapers, facilitating research on African political, economic and cultural events.

## ICON (International Collection on Newspapers)

18,000 records of foreign newspapers had been taken out of the CONSER database; some 6,000 of these records now had CRI, holdings data attached.

The aim is to provide rapid access to these records via searching by place, date, title and language. Work is being done to find ways of

expanding the database to include holdings outside the USA, and also to extend co-operative microfilming arrangements. Further developments are expected to the Programme, once a new President of C.R.L. is appointed. RTN members were asked to consider how records of holdings of African newspaper titles in their countries could be added to the ICON database.

**John Dorr**

## The 4th Newsplan Conference British Library 9th April 2002

Dr Clive Field, Director of Scholarship and Collections, at the British Library welcomed all. He spoke about the importance of Newsplan as a project.

Ed King, Newspaper Librarian BLNL, spoke about the Achievements and Development of the Programme. He gave a summary in case there were delegates present who were unfamiliar with the project.

The International effort to ensure the microfilming of newspapers, continues. We heard three speakers from the Netherlands, Finland and the US described their efforts in their respective countries.

First to speak in the Overseas Project Session was Dennis Schouten, Project Manager the Royal Library in The Hague. Their national preservation programme is called *Metamorfoze*, which means change but also means preserving something of the original. The idea came from a book by a famous 19th century author from the Netherlands Louis Couperus, who used an unorthodox way of spelling Metamorphosis. He presented an overview of their programme.

The Dutch have included 35 popular illustrated periodicals of general interest in their project within the 1840 - 1950 period. Parts of the collection has been digitised. They took 3 newspapers of different ideologies to produce themes e.g. *War and Revolution*, between 1910 and 1919 followed by the *Roaring Twenties* 1920 - 1929. The Netherlands as a one time colonial power has in its Royal Library almost a complete set of newspapers from the Dutch

East Indies which in 1948 became Indonesia. A digitization programme of these is envisaged.

The presentation of the *United States Newspaper Programme* was given by Bob Harriman, its coordinator for the last 20 years in a very clear and lucid paper. The programme in the US is supported with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities with technical support from the LC. Research teams worked in all 50 states, gathering information and drawing up a list of priorities for filming. According to Bob current life expectancy of a microfilm is 500 years when the film is produced, processed and stored in accordance with national and international standards. It must also be stressed that microfilm readers should be maintained regularly and properly.

The second overview from Europe was given by Majlis Bremer-Laamanen, from Helsinki University which is also the National Library of Finland.

The Nordic programme is called TIDEN, the participating libraries are: Royal Library, Sweden, the National Library of Norway and the State and University Library of Denmark (at Aarhus) with Helsinki being the coordinator. They have already launched a digital newspaper library with several hundred thousand pages, for the public and researchers interested in the Nordic countries.

Nancy Elkington, Member Service Officer, Research Libraries Group, spoke on *International efforts to preserve newspapers: Achievements and prospects*. The chairman of that particular session, John Byford, gave her a glowing introduction, she having published 2 major reference books in this field. She was also one of the founder member of CEDARS whose objectives was to explore digital preservation issues. These range through acquiring digital objects, their long-term retention, sufficient description, and eventual access. She spoke about bibliographic control and access and about CONSER – A co-operative online serials cataloguing program in which the United States Newspaper Program (USNP) among others participates.

Following these presentations there were papers on various aspects of UK perspectives – Working in *Partnership* by John Lauder, who is the Project Director. He spoke mainly about its aims and background.

Rob Fogwill, Adfast Technical Support Manager. The Newspaper Society, AdFast, an internet-based digital artwork transmission system, was launched by the Newspaper Society on 18 May 2000, following £1 million investment from its members. It is the fastest-growing internet artwork delivery system in the UK. It presents advertising, news etc. online to a global market.

Peter Winsor, Senior Advisor to Collections and Management for Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries spoke about his Institution.

Finally Nick Fox, Assistant County Librarian for Hampshire spoke about *Newsplan developments: future opportunities for public libraries*. This was a very general introduction talked about Newsplan's achievements, the key players etc. He raised several points that could be pursued if funds were available.



*Goodbye and welcome – Sandra Burrows is a new member on the executive committee having taken over from Mary Jane Starr, who is now the Director General of Communications, at the National Library of Canada. Sandra is the Library's newspapers specialist*

## FUTURE IFLA CONFERENCES

68th	2002 Glasgow
69th	2003 Berlin
70th	2004 Buenos Aires
71st	2005 Oslo
72nd	2006 Seoul

**Theme for the 69<sup>th</sup> 2003 Berlin conference will be Newspapers in Central and Eastern Europe**